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**Antonio Banderas** all praises for Fil-Am co-star in 'Take the Lead'

Reminiscing with Sergio Mendes music



RP to host world pool

championship

SPORTS / A29 - NEWS / A2

**GMA** woos military wives with Botica ng Bayan franchises, loans

#### ist in RP: Mom watches son on Web deliver valedictory

By Gia Damaso-Dumo Contributor

THE SELF-CONFESSED "ABSENTEE MOM" WAS overjayed to learn that her only son had been chosen to deliver the valedictory speech in behalf of the graduating class of the Ateneo Grade School in Quezon City.

But joy quickly turned to sadness for Socorro Victoria Aydinan, a government employee on a

Sunday, April 2, 2006

13 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 115 P18

#### **US** hospitals groaning under patients' weight

ST. LOUIS-GOING TO the hospital is rarely fun. If you weigh over 300 pounds like Beth Henk, it can be embarrassing.

"I've flipped an exam table-I sat on the end of it and it just flipped up," said Henk, whose weight US HOSPITALS/ AZI



# Meralco monopoly over



# Palace accepts Lopezes' offer to open competition to other power producers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho .

IT'S NOW OPEN SEASON IN THE POWER SECTOR.

Under pressure to lower electricity rates, the Manila Electric Co. has finally agreed to allow other power producers to supply the electricity requirements of its large industrial and commercial customers who consume at least 1 megawatt (MW) a month.

Meralco's "unconditional offer," con- President last March 20. tained in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, was immediately accepted by the government which only a few months ago had threatened to take over the country's largest power utility for non-payment of P42 billion owed to the

National Power Corp. (Napocor). Meralco currently has 494 large industrial and commercial customers each with a demand volume of 1 MW and above. These large clients accounted for about 25 percent of Meralco's total electricity sales last year.

Meralco, however, will continue to serve those customers who do not

choose an alternative power supplier. "Meralco fully supports the government's desire to move forward on deregwhich would enable customers to avail of cheaper electricity rates, facilitate the privatization of Napocor, and address the looming capacity problem," Meralco chair and chief executive officer Manuel Lopez said in his letter to the

Albay Rep. and Ms Arroyo's economic adviser Joey Salceda, who brokered the deal, described Meralco's "goodwill gesture" as the "breakup of the last major oligopoly in the Philippine domestic

"Meralco has been studying how it can concretize its support and believes it may have a solution in the light of the new strategic directions for Meralco called for by the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act). At this time, Meraico believes that it should concentrate on its distribution business and on supplying its captive market which are its franchise obligations under Epira," Lopez said.

Lopez told the President that Meralco's offer would result in lower rates to large industrial and commercial customers and encourage them to stay and attract new investors to the country.

Foreign investors have been complaining of the high cost of doing business in MERALCO/ A6

# World looks back on Pope John Paul the Great

world didn't seem the same without him. The most photographed man in history had disappeared, and the Roman Catholic Church he led with such fervor for nearly 27 years was left with a giant yold to fill.

A year after the death of John Paul II, Catholics are learning to love his succes-

VATICAN CITY-FOR A WHILE, THE sor Pope Benedict XVI, who began undimmed. putting his own stamp on the Church when he elevated 15 cardinals at his first consistory two weeks ago.

But John Paul II's reputation as the dominant moral voice of the age, as an advocate of human dignity, as a victor over communism and as an architect of Christian reconciliation with Jews, is

John Paul II does not yet know the desert which few great men escape after their death. Perhaps he will be spared that," reflected Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, one of the late pope's closest

"That pope was the spokesman for the conscience of humanity," the cardinal

said. "One can well understand how

non-Christians were impressed by him." When he died on April 2, 2005, the impact was felt worldwide. Political leaders who had beaten a path to his door as a spiritual sounding board, would soon jostle for elbow room at the biggest fu-

neral in history.

WORLD/ A21

## Mayors told: Do an Atienza, dance to tune of the Cha-cha

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS ENCOURAGING other mayors nationwide to follow Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's lead.

"The sooner our local officials have the signatures for Charter change verified by the Commission on Elections, the sooner we can move to the next step, which is a plebiscite," said Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

Atienza, the first mayor to officially hop on what Ms Arroyo called the Charter change "train," presented to the Comelec on Friday 155,123 signatures that he said

were gathered from Manila's six districts. The signatures, representing approval of the proposed shift from the presidential to the parliamentary system of government, are to form part of the planned people's initiative to

amend the 1987 Constitution. But Defensor said Malacañang was leaving to the city and town mayors the decision on what to do with the signatures supposedly gathered by the multisectoral coalition Sigaw ng Bayan in their respective districts.

Malacassang continued its push for Charter change via a people's initiative, which it described as "an irresistible force."

Said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a radio interview: "The Constitution vested constituent powers on the people to propose amendments to our basic law. This was designed so that elitist politicians like those who oppose constitutional reforms won't have a monopoly of what is good for the country.

"The people are seeking genuine change in our political system, and this cannot be held hostage by politicians who act out of fear of losing their hold on power."

MAYORS/ A6

# Benedictine monks live on edge of seat of power, witness history

By Christian V. Esguerra

APART FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, there's another group that has, through the years, grown accustomed to the chaos of political railies at Mendiola Bridge.

Unlike their neighbors who are almost always dressed in full battle or riot geat, the handful of Benedictine monks cloistered in the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat would never resort to violence to maintain the peace.

They prefer to stay behind the walls of the 105-year-old monastery in deep prayer and work - ora et labora. It's a way of life inspired by St. Benedict, the Italian monk born in 480 A.D., whose teachings and ascetic ways became popular in the 6th century and helped steer post-Roman Europe away from bar-

Benedictine monks follow three vows, namely: obedience, conversion of life (to chastity and poverty] and stability.

In 1901, the abbey and San Beda College were established on Mendiola Street. In 1926, the Church of the Benedictine monks was completed. Since then, the Benedictines have been unlikely neighbors to politicians and power-brokers who come in and out of Mala-

They arrived long before Mendiola called Chino Bridge-now Bridge-earned its historical significance as the avenue of democratic expression. It was a badge defined by endless rallies pitting citi-

zens against the government. .Through all these, the monks have main-

tained their contemplative ways, surviving the sound and, sometimes, the fury of gunfire during military coups in the 1980s or the siege of Malacañang in 2001.

We're conditioned to [take] these external forces," Pr. Ansear Chupungco, the school rector, explained in an interview with the Inquiten last Thursday. "We've learned that everything passes, that there are more things that happen than those that happen every day."

Some 35 monks, including postulants and aspirants (those wanting to join the order), currently live in a one-hectare property beside the San Beda campus.

Located near Malacañang, it's secluded from the "outside world," the way monasteries are supposed to be, by the neo-Gothic walls of the abbey. It's an entirely different world, though not unlike monasteries in medieval Europe.

The serene atmosphere allows monks, like their abbot, Fr. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, to follow the Benedictine way of life-one that is characterized by "daily attentiveness to God."

Benedictines follow the Divine Office or a set of prayers said during specific times of the day, it begins with lauds in the morning, ending with vespers (evening prayer) and com-

pline (night prayer). A beautiful part of the prayers is the alternate singing of the Psalms in the Chapter room facing the courtyard at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat. Chapter refers to the gathering of members of the religious com-



A BRIDGE (MENDIOLA) TOO NEAR the gates of the 105-year-old Abboy of Our Lady of Montserrat spans the tzenultuous temper of our time.

**WEATHER FORECAST** FORECAST: Visayas and Eastern Mindaneo will have mostly cloudy

COMPLED BY: CYBI, E. SONAMENTE, FDI RESEARCH/04/02/06

sides with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy, with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

# and the state of t Second FRONTPAGE

Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Flairs Cloudy with Raiss

# Now, GMA woos military wives

By Gil. C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER WOOING THE SOLDIERS WITH HIGHER pay, better equipment and housing, President Macapagal-Arroyo is now going after their wives with offers of loans to start small-scale businesses to augment their income.

"What you need is passion, hard work and persistence to be successful in business," said the President in her advice to military wives during her visit yesterday to the Micronegosyo Fair held at the Philippine Army Gym.

The President noted that her presence at the fair along with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and the military top brass led by Armed Porces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and Army chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was proof of the importance the government attached to the financial needs of the soldiers and their

get a glimpse of the military fact-

finding report that was supposed

to look into the alleged involve-

ment of certain generals in the

"Hello Garci" poli fraud scandal,

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen.

Generoso Senga has as good as

branded the report as "no big

Senga said the report turned in

by a five-man board led by Navy

chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga

looked into the military's perfor-

mance of its duties during the

May 2004 national elections after

The President encouraged the military wives to avail themselves of soft government loans for small-scale businesses as long as they were sure that their businesses would yield more than the cost of their loans.

The President also offered the military wives a chance to run "Tindahan Natin" and "Botika ng Bayan" outlets nationwide. These stores, official outlets for subsidized commodities such as rice and noodles and low-priced drugs, provide their owners with sizable margins, according to Cabinet officials.

Cruz said the government

would announce a major agriculture project that would utilize idle military land with the produce to be marketed by the gov-

Esperon welcomed the President's move to face the military wives because it showed her sincerity in helping the soldiers meet their families' needs while they risked their lives for the country.

The two-day business franchising fair was organized by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship led by businessman Jose Concepcion III, presidential consultant for entrepreneurship.

Aside from franchise opportunitles, the group provides the military wives with face-to-face mentoring sessions for free and forums on microfinancing.

This special fair for the military wives comes on the heels of the President's recent announcement of major housing projects.

Meanwhile, Malacañang up-

pears to have indefinitely put on hold the oft-delayed dialogue with soldiers which was meant to address the growing restiveness in the military.

Instead, the Palace has endorsed a proposal to limit the authority of the Commission on Appointments in the confirmation of military officers as a way of to depoliticizing the military.

Cruz said Malacañang has decided to undertake a more "scientific" approach by holding a survey before the President sits down in face-to-face dialogue with soldiers.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the Palace would implement a more discreet system in which soldiers would be asked to place their complaints in a sealed envelope which would then be addressed by an internal committee. "It's like soldiers would go to a confessional and say all their gripes,"

# Senga still mum on report on generals

bugged conversations during the canvassing in the presidential Senga continued to duck questions about the reasons for keeping the Mayuga board's findings under wraps in the face of restiveness among the troops over allegations that the military was involved in a conspiracy to rig the

elections in President Macapagal-

ATTOYO'S FEVOR

chose to keep mann when pressed

about specific allegations against

generals mentioned in damaging

Sidestepping the question of whether the Mayuga report being deputized by the Commission on Elections. Senga approved the so-called would help bring back the pub-Mayuga report before it was for- lic's trust in the military leaderwarded to Defense Secretary ship, Senga said the investigation

WHILE THE PUBLIC HAS YET TO Avelino Cruz Jr. last month, but

was merely fact-finding.

"What Vice Admiral Mayuga undertook is a fact-finding report to determine the actions that the Armed Porces of the Philippines undertook during the elections. In other words, [the report was about] how the AFP performed having been deputized by the Comelec," Senga said last week in a rare appearance at a news forum.

"it's about the conduct of elections," he stressed without providing details about the report.

The "Hello Gard" tapes of wiretaps recorded a man believed to be former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano as telling a woman believed to be the President that he was coordinating with a General Esperon and a General Kyamko to

contain a General Gudani whom the man suspected of being sympathetic to the opposition.

"Garcillano" also blamed a General Habacon for not properly reconciling the records of election results in Basilan.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was deputy commander of the AFP's task force for honest, orderly and peaceful elections [HOPE] while retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko was the AFP Southern Command chief during the elections.

Retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who was head of Task Porce Ranao at the time, underwent a court-martial in September after he testified about election irregularities in Lanao del Sur.

Only after these measures were made would the Palace consider holding the presidential dialogue, said Defensor.

Defensor had been previously tapped to head the face-to-face dialogue with the soldiers, which was supposed to have taken place as early as two weeks ago.

Malacañang announced the

planned dialogue a day after the President lifted the state of national emergency which she imposed last Feb. 24 to foil an alleged coup attempt.

The dialogue, however, has been delayed by differences on what topics should be discussed and who would be allowed attend the sessions with the President.



CHA-CHA HITS THE ROAD. Members of Sigaw ng Bayan make their way in a motorcade through the narrow streets of Sta. Ana, Manila, during a demonstration yesterday in support of amending the Philippine Constitution by a people's initiative.

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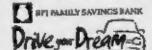
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# In 1st Mass, Rosales thanks his 2 fathers

#### By Jerome Aning

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDInal Rosales yesterday thanked two "fathers" "during the first Mass he celebrated in the "country as a new "Prince of the Church."

In a speech he gave at the end of the Mass, Rosales expressed gratitude to his biological father, Godofredo, for allowing him to follow his priestly vocation—albeit after much permusion—in 1947.

Rosales also thanked his spiritual father, Prope Benedict XVI, for reiterating the Philippines' "special role" in the evangelization of

As cardinal, the archbishop said he could now "listen and take part in the discussion on the Church's needs and issues worldwide, and offer advice."

#### Standing room only

Rosales was greeted with applause when he entered the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila, at 10 a.m. and donned his purple liturgical vestments in one of the side chapels. It was also the first time for his countrymen to see him wearing the distinctive red cap of a cardinal.

cap of a cardinal.

VIPs, clergymen, Catholic school students, members of lay groups and residents of the archdiocese filled the cathedral's 2,500 seats. Hundreds of others heard Mass standing outside the cathedral.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and about 50 bishops, including those coming from the Manila Metropolitan See's suffragan dioceses: Imus, Anripolo, Malolos, Novaliches, Cubao, Caloocan, Pasig and Parañaque, concelebrated the Mass.

Vidal, who delivered the homily, underscored the role of a cardinal as a representative not only of his diocese but of his country within the Roman Catholic Church.

#### Dying seed

Vidal also lectured against selfishness, discussing the metaphor used by Jesus Christ on the rewards of self-negation: "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest," he said, quoting John 12:24 from the Bible.

"Dying like the seed means letting go of our personal interests—yes, even the valid and ie-

gitimate aspirations—so that something greater might emerge from our act of self-sacrifice," Vidal said. "It means letting go of what we want for ourselves, so that the broken pieces of our dreams may form the scaffolds of a grander vision."

The Cardinal's listeners included President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies, as well as opposition politicians, both groups sitting in separate pews during the Mass.

Although Vidal did not make any direct allusions, he said the metaphor of the dying seed could be used "for our discernment as a nation."

#### Pope's message

Rosales was applauded after sharing the Pope's personal message to the country.

"[Pope Benedict] said 'the Philippines has a special role in the evangelization of the Orient.' He mentioned this twice in our four encounters during the consistory," said Rosales, who was at the Vatican last week.

The cardinal said Pope Benedict was the third Pope, after John Paul II and Paul VI, to remind the predominantly Roman Catholic Filipinos "of our calling and responsibility to give the noble cultures of Asia a witness of our faith, even from where we are now, with the quality of our social, economic, political and religious life."

Underneath the challenge to the Filipinos' Christian vocation, Rosales said, is "a call to unity in the manner of our witnessing, and a challenge to collaborative sacrificial effort to make our society true communities of believers, eliminating injustice and inequalities that deny anyone a dignified life."

"This is ... our mission. And Asia is looking to us for light which already we have received in Christ," he added.

The Mass was also attended by Vice President Noli de Castro, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, other lawmakers and Cabinet members.

Other prelates present included Apostolic Nunciature charge d'affaires Jain Mendez, Cotabato Archbishop and Federation of Asian Bishops Conference president Orlando Quevedo, Bishop Tomas Camacho of Saipan in the Northern Marianas and Manila Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez.



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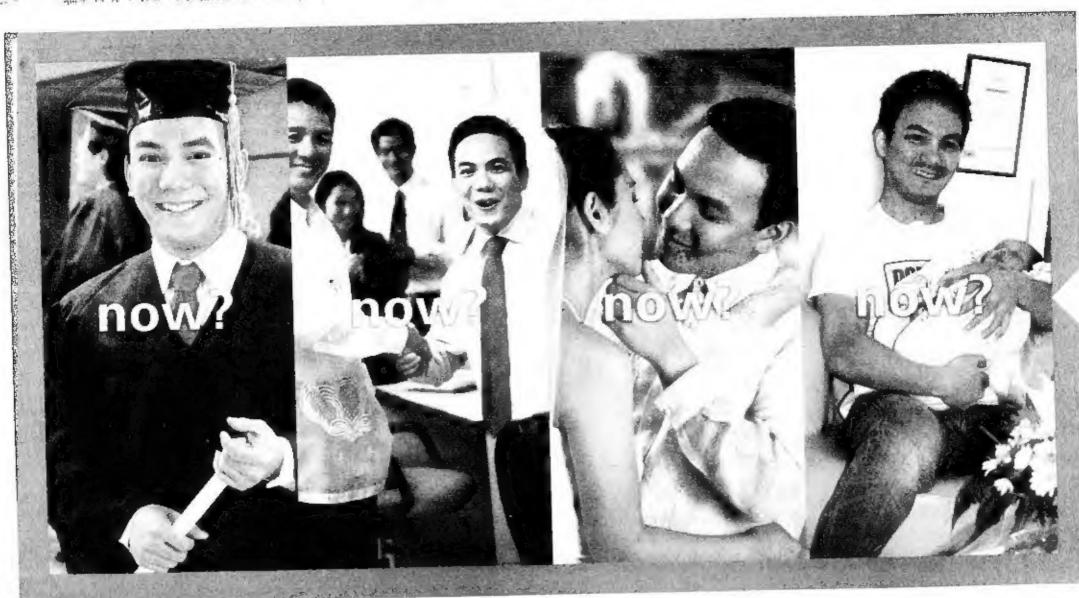
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#### Correction

IN THE MARCH 31 ISSUE, the list of bar topnotchers on page A21 misstated the school from which 1968 first-placer Oscar Glovasa graduated. Glovasa is a graduate of the then Divine Word College-not UB (University of Bohol).

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquire; PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fox Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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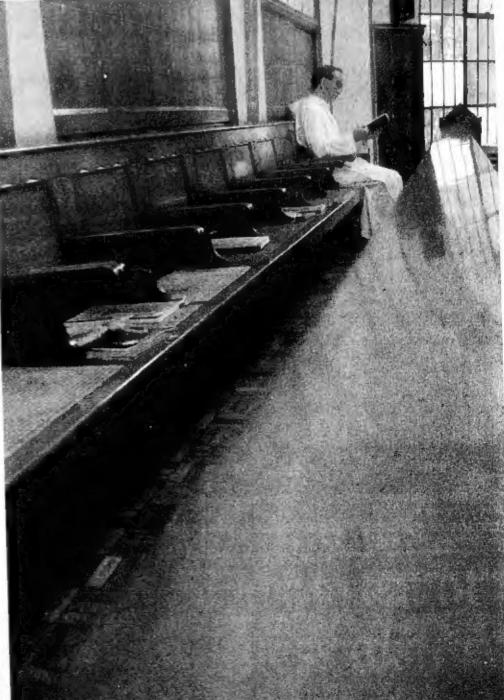
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THEY ARE IN THE WORLD but are not of the world, Abbot Tarcisio Ma. Narciso explains the Benedictine way of work and prayer.

# Benedictine monks live on edge of seat of power, witness history

The routine is part of the Holy Rule of St. his time. It essentially calls on followers to live a balanced, disciplined life devoted to the sanctification of man and the glorification of God through prayer and work.

To some, it may seem boring because you do the same things [every day]," says Narciso, while giving the INQUIRER a tour of the monastery. "But you get to establish roots, a pattern and things become orderly."

Make no mistake about the Benedictines. Living behind the abbey's walls doesn't mean they are detached from the world, particularly from the politics that color Mendiola Bridge.

The Benedictines were there when tens of thousands of Filipinos marched on Edsa to oust the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, according to Chupungeo.

Fr. Bernardo Perez, his predecessor, once found himself standing in the middle of Mendiola, pacifying anti-Marcos protesters.

Breakaway group?

There was also a time during one of many coups against the Aquino administration when a rocket-propelled grenade grazed the wall of the monastery, narrowly missing the monks' rooms. They've often been reminded to take extra care since.

Narciso remembers a funny story about how the monks, isolated as they were in the monastery, almost ran into supporters of the late dictator. This was in the last days of the Marcos dictatorship when soldiers with white headbands were marching in front of San Be-

da on their way to Malacañang. From the windows of the abbey, the monks displayed yellow harmers to welcome the troops and what they thought was the restoration of democracy.

"All the while, we thought they belonged to the breakaway group because of the headbands," the abbot recalls. "To our surprise, they were Marcos loyalists. So we pulled our the banners as quickly as we could."

Hours later, Narciso and the other monks would practically save the lives of this same group of Marcos soldiers.

#### **Peacemaker**

An officer knocked on the campus gates, asking if they could be allowed inside. An angry mob was nearing Mendiola and God knows what could happen if they clashed with a small but heavily armed band of soldiers, the monks realized.

The monks led the soldiers inside and brought them to the covered basketball court. True enough, people came looking for

them and the security guard just denied their presence," Narciso says. "Had they gotten to the soldiers, there would have been blood-

The Benedictines again opened their doors on Labor Day in 2001 when loyalists of

Joseph Estrada—many of whom were mothers carrying babies-attacked Malacanang,

The loyalists had been tear-gassed, their Benedict, a very strict disciplinarian during eyes stinging and their faces red and they had nowhere to go. They knocked on the abbey gates and the monks allowed them in and even served them sandwiches and juice.

#### No innocent request

It's during crises like today's raging political turmoil that monks need to pray more intensely and get "rooted" in the community, Narciso says.

The abbot, however, laments a recent incident wherein they inadvertently allowed themselves to be used for a political end.

Narciso was lecturing before a class of novices when he got a call from the security guard downstairs. A member of the Black and White Movement, a group demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was asking if he could be allowed to pray at the

Abbey church. Narciso acceded only to find out that it was no innocent request. A pack of reporters and cameramen, all escorted by armed policemen, poured into the church to cover and take pictures of one or two protesters praying.

The incident would later be announced as a triumph for the anti-Arroyo movement. It was the first time that rallyists got past the foot of Mendiola Bridge after the President, accused of cheating in the 2004 elections, had declared the area a "no-rally zone."

#### Moral values

"If you want to pray, pray in silence," Narciso says. "Why have your picture taken? What's the point? If you're going to use the church for political purposes, why not just go elsewhere?"

He says it's not an issue of siding with or going against the embattled President. Benedictines, too, know what's happening around them and each monk has his own opinion. in fact, the "Hello Garci" controversy crops up during informal conversations in the cloister,

He says the monks prefer to follow the guidance of the Catholic bishops which is centered on nurturing moral values in public life.

#### Involved and focused

Involving oneself in political issues is just a speck in the application of the Benedictine vow of "stability." Narciso says it broadly refers to a monk's rootedness in a specific community.

"We are in the world but not of the world," he explains. "Your values must be of Chrisi but you don't segregate yourself from the world. You learn to live with the people."

In the case of the Benedictines in the coun try, their main application of labora is in education. They run three schools, one on Mendaola Street and one each in Taytay and Ala-

"We are involved in the world in a more focused way," says Chupungco.

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Per DYI-NCR Permit No. 2161 Series of 2006



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MOTHER AND SON REUNITED, thanks to the fare the former saved. Secoure Victoria Aydinan in Melbourne watched son Macling's grade school graduation on the Atomes webcast and sent him the money to join her Down Under as a fitting gift for the class valedictorian.

# 1st in RP: Mom watches son on Web

From page Al-

graduate scholarship at the Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, for one-and-a-half years now.

After making quick computations, she realized that the cost of the trip would be too steep. And if she did decide to attend her son's graduation rites, anyway, she would have to return immediately to the university, where she is in the thick of mid-semester class work.

Fortunately, during a practice session a week before graduation day, Socorro's son, Macling Gabriel, was informed by his teachers that the Ateneo graduation ceremonies would have a live webcast.

It was to be a first in any Philippine university, and the grade school graduation on March 23 would be the pilot event.

Thrilled, the boy immediately phoned his mother to inform her.

#### 'That's my son!'

On the appointed day in Melbourne, Socorro could not contain her excitement and made sure that all her friends viewed the live webcast with her.

"I went, That's my son! That's my Loyola Schools. soul' I was literally jumping with joy. I was on the verge of tears even, but was too proud to cry," she said in an e-mail interview.

Socorro said she recorded Machiing delivering his graduation speech in Filipino on her videocam. She said the boy would have missed the seventh grade and delivering that speech had he agreed to come with her to Australia last year.

"It was a very overwhelming emotional experience," she said. "I couldn't sleep that night. I kept replaying [the webcast] over and over I was the proudest mom on earth. This is one of the best projects the Ateneo has embarked on."

The webcast was conducted by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism of the Ateneo de Manila, the Campus Network Group, and Mosaic Communications or Mozcom.

it covered four days of graduation ceremonies, each lasting an average of three hours, in the grade school, high school and graduate and undergraduate levels of the

Webcasting is a broadcast or recording of an event over the World Wide Web. In July 2004, Mozcom also provided the live webcast of PBA's Game 4 of the Fiesta Conference Finals between the crowd-favorite Barangay Ginebra Kings and the Red Bull Barakos.

The technology can also be used in distance education.

According to the organizers, the graduation webcast received feedback from the Philippines (about 80 percent), the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore, Guam, the Northern Marianas, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany Prance and the United Arab Emirates.

It averaged 330 unique hits (individual computers that accessed the webcast).

#### Bringing people together

This means that the quality of the service was good. It also means that we were able to bring people together," said Dr. Mercedes Rodrigo, director for e-learning at the Konrad Adenauer Center.

The Aydinan family would agree.

# SC asked to hold Comelec in contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD HAVE THE Commission on Elections explain why it should not be cited in contempt for "flagrantly disobeying" the tribunal's 1997 ruling that a people's initiative cannot be undertaken without an enabling law, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"This is the most expeditious and clear-cut procedure to settle once and for all the legality of the administration's filegal move to revise the Constitution and overhaul our system of government before it gets out of hand," said the maverick administration senator.

Arroyo also said the tribunal should immediately stop the Comelec from verifying the signatures that were supposedly collected in support of the people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

He said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and the commissioners should be ordered to explain their actions "so that respect for our institutions and processes, including that of the Supreme Court, is not undermined."

#### 'Recidivist Cornelec'

"We cannot have a recidivist Comelec that openly and habitually defies Supreme Court decisions," Arroyo said.

He said the high court had "clearly and peremptorily declared" in Santiago vs Comelec that the law (Republic Act No. 6735) being invoked to justify the current drive for a people's initiative was "inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution."

He also said the high court had specifically declared that "the Comelec should be permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the sys-

"That is the ruling and, unless overturned, it is the law. You cannot defy the Supreme Court," Arroyo said.

"But it seems the executive [branch] is bent on defying settled decisions of the court. They're acting as if there is no Supreme Court," he said.

#### Inhibition of justices

administration, said incumbent Supreme said.

Court justices aspiring to become chief justice later this year should inhibit themselves from any case involving Charter change (Cha-cha).

Santiago said national bar associations should seek such an inhibition in order to preserve the integrity of the tribunal.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban is due for retirement in December.

"Out of delicadesa, any incumbent justice who wishes to be appointed to the vacancy should inhibit himself or herself from any case involving Cha-cha," Santiago said in a

She said it would be unethical for a justice to vote in favor of Charter change because President Macapagal-Arroyo, the appointing power, had aiready endorsed the amendment of the 1987 Constitution through a people's "If a justice votes in favor of Cha-cha and

later gets appointed as chief justice, the public : will suspect that the justice cast a vote, not out of conviction, but out of political accommodation," Santiago said.

That would destroy the credibility of the Supreme Court," she said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed with this view.

"The position [of chief justice] could become a bargaining chip. So out of delicadesa, they should inhibit themselves," he said.

#### No change in facts

Santiago, a recognized constitutional law expert, also said the tribunal had "no acceptable legal basis" for reversing its ruling in Santiago vs Comelec.

"In reversing a previous ruling, the Supreme Court is not bound by the number of justices voting for or against the issue in the prior case, but by the issue of whether the facts have changed," she said, adding: "The facts have not changed."

Santiago was the petitioner in the case bearing her name, which she personally argued before the high court. Her fellow petitioners were Alexander Padilla, now health undersecretary, and Maribel Ongpin, a civic

Although an administration senator, Santiago opposes any move to reverse the ruling in Santiago vs Comelec, which lawyers consider to be a landmark case.

"To reverse the Santiago ruling will be to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, also of the court disaster in terms of public opinion," the

# Meralco monopoly over

From page Al

the Philippines which has one of the highest electricity rates in Asia.

In a joint statement, Energy Secretary Raphael M. Lotilla and National Economic and Development Authority Secretary General Romulo Neri said the government was accepting Meralco's "unconditional offer."

We anticipate that this offer and its acceptance will help enable the industrial sector to avail of the lower time-of-use (TOU) rates of the National Power Corp., help reduce the cost of doing business in the Meralco franchise area, promote investment and the creation of additional jobs, and help push privatization forward," Lotilia and Neri said.

#### Finalize in 2 weeks

Lotilla said the President had directed Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. to finalize the details and mechanics of the new arrangement with Meralco within two weeks.

The scheme would be implemented immediately after the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its details and mechanics.

"We are looking forward to meeting with Napocor and Transco as directed. Among the topics to be discussed is the dispatch of our (independent power producers)," Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said.

The Lopez family which owns Meralco also controls a number of IPPs which would now have to compete with other power suppliers.

Lotilla said Meralco's partial open access scheme would have a positive impact not only on investors, but also on the government's efforts to privatize Napocor's generation assets.

He explained that the new arrangement would create a new market for potential buyers of Napocor plants that would be placed on the auction block.

#### 'Big sacrifice'

This is an excellent deal for Meralco consumers and export manufacturers," said Saiceda. This is a big sacrifice for Meraico which is swimming in red ink while nursing mortal wounds from a P31 billion refund while facing another P16 billion refund."

Salceda said that while facing competition, the deal would have a liberating effect on the Lopezes to move on. 'Just like PLDT overcame telecom deregulation and moved from a P3 billion profit in 1995 to P31 billion in 2005."

Once implemented, Lotilla said Meralco's large commercial and industrial customers could take advantage of Napocor's TOU rates by shifting their loads to off-peak hours, or the times when rates are lower.

The TOU scheme provides Napocor customers with flexible hourly rates that are lowen during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9

p.m. Sundays and holidays are also consid- from page Al ered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually fails during this time due to the colder weather. Hydroelectric plants are also able to produce more power during these months.

#### Savings for expansion

"Large industrial users may be able to save on their electricity rates, and these savings could be significant enough to make them more competitive. They could also channel their savings

to expansion activities," Lotilla said. Francisco said Meralco was not at all apprehensive that it would lose its growth-driving customers even if most of its sales growth came from one of the segments that would be affected by its partial open access scheme.

"Between Meralco's blended generation rate and Napocor's TOU rate, some may choose to stay, especially the commercial (customers)," he told the inquiter.

In 2005, Meralco's revenue from electricity sales rose 15.9 percent to P170.85 billion from P147.35 billion the previous year. One-fourth of this amount came from customers with a monthly demand of 1 MW and above.

#### Other consumers benefit

Lopez also told Ms Arroyo that with the "dispatch of Meralco's IPPs at MEQ (Minimum Energy Quantity) levels, the other Meralco customers with demands of less than 1 megawatt

would also benefit from lower purchase costs. A power plant's MEQ level is the level at which it becomes more efficient and cost-effec-

tive, thus resulting in lower generation charges. But Meralco vice president and utility economics chief Ivanna de la Peña said Meralco would only be able to determine exactly how the new scheme would affect the dispatch of IPPs First Gas Power Corp., through the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants, and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. when the mechanism for the scheme had been established.

"We'll still have to work out the mechanics. But the dispatch of our IPPs will affect the rates to consumers. It has always been our position that dispatch should not be below (minisnum energy quantities) to keep rates down,"

#### Separate concern

"At this point, we are giving more importance to lowering the rates to our industrial customers and, perhaps, to all our other customers, too, if our IPPs can reach MEQ," Francisco said.

Lotilla and Neri said the government would consider Meraico's separate concern on the dispatch of its IPPs. "In any event, any possible arrangement concerning dispatch will have to fall away upon the full commercial operations of the Philippine wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) which is expected to happen in the near future."

# Mayors told: Do a Lito Atienza ...

should elevate the debate to more substantial matters, such as the kind of government suitable to the country, rather than dwell on "old issues, such as allegations that the President

cheated in the last elections." The opposition had earlier dismissed Ms Arroyo's Charter change train as headed toward a cliff. Defensor retorted yesterday that at least the government had a train, while the opposition did not even have a bicycle.

Bunye concurred, saying that "the democratic will of the people is gathering irresistible force as the debates are increasing in pitch."

"The Filipino people are on track toward political reform, and there is no stopping [them] from achieving their aspirations. The Charter change pessimists will be swept away, just as those who strongly oppose economic reform are proven wrong," he said.

Bunye also said it was no coincidence that 9 out of 10 of the Philippines' rich neighbors had parliamentary systems with more efficient ways of legislation.

He said the Senate was to blame for the legislative gridlock that, he said, would be resolved with a unicameral system that would lead to the abolition of the upper chamber.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles of Davao City also weighed in on the issue.

"The doomsday prediction of senators, who likened Charter change to a runaway train headed for the cliff, is an indication of their envy and growing desperation to stall Charter change, with 5.6 million (people) so far having endorsed it through a people's initiative," Nograles said.

#### Doubling the figures

In a news release, lawyer Raul Lambino, spokesperson of Sigaw ng Bayan, said 20 out of 24 Mindanao governors as well as "an overwhelming number" of local officials, nongovernment organizations and people's organizations had decided to raise their respective targets in gathering signatures.

Lambino said the number of signatories had exceeded six million-past the minimum constitutional requirement of 5.12 million-but that leaders of sectoral and business groups and various local government units had joined forces to double the figure.

"Our target of 10 to 12 million signatures is attainable given the support of

proceed at full steam because our people want constitutional reforms now."

#### Warning

But the convenor of a group of lawyers warned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. against proceeding with the verification of signatures.

Neri Colmenares of the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) said the ongoing people's initiative was illegal on the basis of the Supreme Court's 1997 ruling on the case Santiago vs Comelec.

"If the Comelec is going to waste public funds in the verification of signatures that will not be recognized in the end by the high court, that constitutes graft or malversation of funds," Colmenares said.

He said graft charges could be filed on top of the contempt charges that some groups were threatening to lodge against Comelec registrars who would insist on validating the signatures. (See sidebar on this page.)

#### No public funds

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the Inquirex that government officials and personnel using public funds to gather signatures were liable for graft charges.

He also said that while public servants should not campaign for or against Charter change, they could express their views on the matter.

Public officials cannot take part in and cannot spend public funds for the gathering of signatures," said Gonzalez, who had earlier issued a memorandum now being used by the Department of Interior and Local Government to justify the involvement of governmem employees in the signature drive.

Those who campaign for or against Charter change using government funds can be "struck down by the Commission on Audit" even as they make themselves liable for violating the antigraft law, he said.

Gonzalez, however, stuck to the tenor of his memorandum, which justified the action of government employees exercising their "civic duty" by discussing Charter change.

"I have a memo saying that even public officials, or even a teacher, can participate in the campaign ... I can explain to the people why I am against it or why I am in favor of it," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

For example, if you are a public of-

Mindanao's grass-roots leaders," he ficial and you go to the town plaza to said. While the 5.2-million mark has al-Defensor said the opposition ready been surpassed, the campaign will ... What is illegal is if a government employee campaigns for the people to sign the way he wants ... You are already being partisan there," he said.

Those who do so are violating civil service rules on political neutrality, Gonzalez said.

But there is nothing wrong in barangay leaders taking up the issue in their "citizens' assembly," so long as they do not make people vote for or against it, he said.

#### Quite doable

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House committee on appropriations and economic adviser to the President, said the current fiscal situation could handle the tab of more than P2 billion for the holding of a plebiscite.

"Knyung-knyu (it's doable)," he said of the matter of finding the logistics for the enercise that Speaker Jose de Venecia had projected would be held in June.

Salceda told the Inquirer that government expenditures for the first two months of the year totaled P7.7 billion, ahead of the budget deficit target for the period. The plebische can be easily ac-

commodated with the availability of funds," he said, adding that the funds could be taken from government savings and augmented with the executive department's contingency funds. "A contingency fund comes from a

legal circumstance, from a legal event, granting that there is no legal [challenge to] the people's initiative and Republic Act No. 6537 (the supposed enabling law)," Salceda said.

#### Contingency funds

Asked whether the House-which only recently passed the P1-trillion budget for 2006-needed to realign funds, Salceda said no.

"That's the reason why the executive [department] has its contingency funds," he said.

He pointed out that in 2004, the government easily raised some P3.6 billion for the national elections in that year. The budget at that time was reenacted from 2003, a non-election year.

"The realignment by the executive [department] of its contingency funds must be triggered by a report from the Cornelec that there is a legal contingency [which, in this case, is the need to hold a plebiscite]. And the government has to [get] funds from available sources," Salceda said. With reports from Armand Nocum and Norman Bordadora

# Drilon cites media, slain journalists

EXPERIMENTAL MARKET AND CALLED CARREST CONTRACT CONTRACT

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DRILON HAS lauded the news media for refusing to be cowed by the government which is out to "mask the truth and slience its bearers," and paid tribute to at least 28 Filipino journalists killed in the last five years.

In a speech to the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in Makati City on Priday, Drilon denounced attempts by the Arroyo administration to muzzle the press.

"I salute the local media, those journalists who have sacrificed their lives or who have been hurt but continue to serve the truth," Drilon said. The declaration of a state of national emergency through Presidential Proclamation 1017 last month and the "insidious moves" that followed were meant to cow the press, he added.

"The police raid on The Daily Tribune, for example, was intended not solely as an act of retribution against a critical newspaper but as a warning to all media establishments to behave according to the desires of the powersthat-be," Drilon said.

Drilon noted, however, that even before the proclamation of a state of national emergency, international press organizations like the International Federation of Journalists and Reporters sans Frontiers (Reporters Without Borders) had stated that Filipino mediamen were already "paying a high price for their outspokenness."

He recalled that 28 Pilipino Journalists had been killed "in pursuit of their profession" as recorded by the IKJ, the International Press Institute (IPI) and the Philippine Union of Journalists.

Drilon said six journalists were killed, seven were physically attacked and nine threatened in 2004 alone.

That same year, the IPI World Press Freedom Review emphasized that the "Philippines, one of the freest and most democratic countries in Asia, for the third year in a row is the Asian country with the highest number of journalists murdered in the line of duty," Drilon said.

He said IPI, which had warned that the situation was worsening, "has the impression that the Philippine authorities are unable to accept criticism in media."

# Mayor wants station off air

COTABATO CITY -- THE TOWN MAYOR OF Kabacan, North Cotabato has asked telecommunication authorities to take off the air a radio station perceived to be critical of her administration.

A program host of the station slammed the move of Mayor Luzviminda Tan as tantamount to silencing the press.

"Its being critical of my administration is not the issue," said Tan, referring to 101 FM radio, an affiliate of dzRH of the Manila Broadcasting Corp.

"The request for a suspension order has been relayed to the National Telecommunications Commission because of some complaints that the station has no permit to operate and is operating as a commercial station when in fact it's not," Tan said.

Boy Ancheta, the station's news and public affairs program host, said Tart's action was repressive. He said the mayor's action was aimed at

He said the mayor's action was aimed at "silencing the media in Kabacan," and denied allegations the station was operating illegally.

"Our permit to operate as a satellite station of MBC in North Cotabato was issued by the NTC," Ancheta said.

"Putting us off-air for an indefinite period is "Putting us off-air for an indefinite period is an-

"Putting us off-air for an indefinite period is a clear suppression of press freedom. It appears that the mayor doesn't want to hear the complaints of the people about her governance. That's why she wanted my program axed by suspending the station's operation."

Tan rejected Ancheta's claim, saying she respected free speech.

"Even if comments were adversarial to my administration, I welcome them in the name of freedom and democracy" she said.

Tan said her request for NTC intervention was based on complaints from residents. Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau







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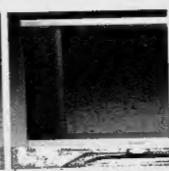
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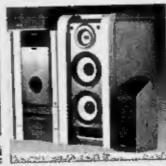
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# 3 Filipinos killed in Bahrain named; 1 remains missing

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affaira has released the names of three Filipinos who were among those who drowned when a pleasure boat capsized off Bahrain, and President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the foreign office to help the victims' families in the repabriation of their bodies.

DPA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque identified the fatalities in a text message to reporters as Norman Belardo, Edwin Pelipe Batacan and Quennie Aboboto Dunca. Their relatives in Bahrain and in the Philippines had been notified of their deaths, he added.

"The Philippine Embassy in Bahrain is now providing assisstance to repatriate the remains of the fatalities in the Al-dana tourist boat mishap," Asuque said.

The DFA had said last Friday that three Filipinos had drowned and that two others, both crewimen of the boat, were missing. It clarified yesterday that Dunca was one of the two Filipino crew members earlier reported missing. The tother one has not been identified.

"The search for the one other missing Filipino crew member continues," Asuque said. Seven other Filipinos survived,

including three who were treated in a Bahraini hospital for minor linjuries, he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a press statement that the

President had condoled with the families of the Filipino victims.

"She has instructed the Department of Poreign Affairs to keep a tight watch on ongoing rescue operations to ascertain the condition of Pilipinos who may have been aboard the tourist boat before it sank. She has also asked the DFA to extend assistance to the families of the three victims, particularly in the repatriation of the bodies of the victims," said Burrye.

Asuque said that the exact number of Filipinos aboard the boat had yet to be established.

"As of now, we have 11 Pilipinos in our record, seven of whom survived, three were killed and one remains missing. The identification of the nationals on board the boat is based on the manifest," Asuque said in a phone interview.

Wire reports said at least 57 people, including the three Pilipinos, drowned after the boat capsized and sank.

American and Bahraini officials had said there was no indication the sinking was the result of an attack.

Officials in Bahrain said 137 people were on board the Al-dana mostly foreigners, including Britons, Americans, Germans, Indians, South Africans and Egyptians - when it sank.

Authorities in Bahrain have detained and were questioning the boat's captain, an Indian national, who they said was unquali-

fied. The traditional wooden dhow was said to have been overloaded with passengers attending a corporate party.

"The captain was only a sailor and not qualified to operate the ship. The prosecutor's office has detained him and his assistant," prosecutor Nawaf Hamza told reporters in Manama Friday.

Rescuers helped by the US Navy's 5th Fleet pulled 67 survivors from the water. More than 30 people were taken to hospital. Most have been discharged. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Reuters

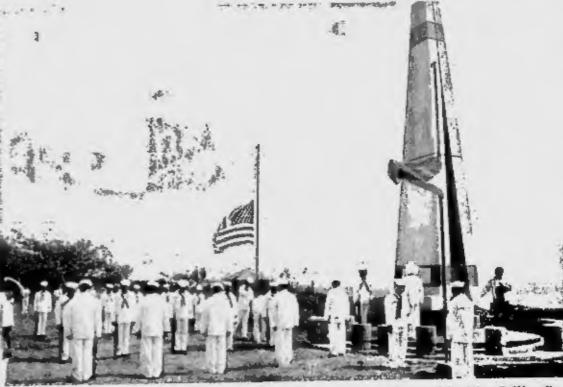
#### No Pinoys there

NONE OF THE ESTIMATED 550 Filipinos working in Iran were hurt in the powerful carthquake that killed at least 70 people in western Iran on Friday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

"It's a very remote place. No Filipinos go there," DFA spokesperson Asuque said.

He said Filipinos in Iran mostly worked in places where oil facilities and bospitals were located.

About 1,265 were injured in the tremor that wiped out villages, Agence France-Presse Nilder Dison reported.



THE PHILIPPINE and US flags fly in the breeze during yesterday's reenactment of the Albay Gulf Landing MINO JESUS Y, ORDETAPOI SOUTHERN LUZON BURGALI during World War II in Legazpi City.

# Liberation of Bicol during WWII recalled

By Edgar Alejo PDI Southern Luxon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY- AMID CLOUDS of sand and water kicked up by thunderous salvoes from four warships in the distance, dozens of "US Marines" waded ashore and engaged an equal number of Tapanese soldiers" in a brief skirmish. In a few more minutes, as the enemy retreated inland, the capture of the beach in Barangay Rawis was complete.

And so was the reenactment of Legazpi City's Liberation Day 61 years ago, when an American armada sailed into Albay Gulf, came ashore and, with the help of Filipino guerrillas, recaptured the city from the Japanese Imperial Forces.

The reenactment, performed by the Naval Porces in Southern Luzon in cooperation with the Air Force and the Mariners Polytechnic Colleges Foundation, was part of Saturday's commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the US landing in Legazpi.

impress on present-day Pilipinos the courage of their forebears so they, too, would rise above failure and defeat, Mayor Noel Rosai said in his message.

"We are prepared to bleed for the love of freedom," Rosal said. "Let's liberate ourselves from the complexity of our problems through the spirit and unity shown by our forefathers so that we, too, could overcome difficul-

The rites, which paid tribute to veterans of the Joint Forces of the Philippine Guerrilla Forces (West Plate) and the Allied American Forces (East Plate) that liberated Legazpi, were led by the Commission on Bikol History and Culture at the Legazpi Gulf Landing Mon-

Jesus Terry Adeveso, presidential assistant for veteran affairs, called the veterans "heroes of our race" even as he acknowledged that the Bicolano veterans were still fighting some batties.

Vereran Geronimo Balantes, 81, secretary of the Veteran Ped-

eration of the Philippines (VFP) Sto. Domingo chapter, recalled that they were the ones who met the American forces on the

He said there were about 300 of them who moved out with the Americans toward Kapuntukan Hill along where they engaged Japanese troops in a long firefight all the way to Kimantong, Daraga, Albay.

But it was in Barangay Kitwinan in Camalig town where the Japanese finally surrendered,

Rosalio Bansale, 79, also of Sto. Domingo town, said that since the married guerrillas were discouraged by their wives from going, bachelors like him were the ones who brushed elbows with the Americans in the fight against the Japanese.

Mai. James Norcross, US Marines Defense Office attache, who represented new US Ambassador Kristie Anne Kenney as guest speaker, lauded the enduring alliance between the US and

# Pinay caregiver in Canada to stay and fight deportation

By Nikko Dizon

was given until today by Canadian and worked for one year as a liveimmigration authorities to voluntary in caregiver taking care of two leave the country, has decided to stay children for a Vancouver family. put and instead challenge the order of the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) office, a Canadabased magrant worker advocacy group said yesterday.

Emelda Emnace, who has been working as a live-in caregiver in Canada for less than two years, has decided not to go home to the Philippines, Glecy Duran, vice chair of Siklab, the national organization of Filipino migrant workers in Canada, told the Inquirer in an temporary status. overseas call yesterday.

Duran said that Emnace, a 40year-old mother of two girls, was a victim of bureaucracy in Canada and the failure of the Canadian government to provide exhaustive information for live-in caregivers one employer," Sikiab said.

on their stay in the country.

According to Siklab, Emnace A FILIPINO CAREGIVER, WHO arrived in Canada in May 2004

After the family no longer needed her services, Emnace actively sought employment elsewhere.

"She did find another employer but the job didn't materialize. Then she got another job offer. This time, she and her prospective employer submitted to the CIC all the necessary documents," Duran said.

However, due to processing delays, Emnace was not re-issued a valid working permit and lost her

"Live-in caregivers under CIC's Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) are required to hold a valid working permit issued by CIC which is good for one year and tie the livein caregivers to working for only

Duran said the LCP manual states that caregivers are allowed to change employers under the three year limit and Emnace was very well within the limit.

Emelda should not be deported because she did her part and looked for employers. The bureaucracy delayed the processing of her papers," Duran said.

By tomorrow, April 3, Emnace would be technically considered "out of status," Duran said.

Emnace has another 30 days until "a removal action by the police or immigration authorities" is implemented, Duran said.

Duran said Emnace and Siklab had asked the CIC to review Emnace's case.

"If our request is denied, we will apply for a humanitarian compassionate' (consideration) for her because her abusive exhusband is still in the Philippines," Duran said.

# Gov't overshoots tourist target

FINAL STATISTICS RELEASED Friday by the Department of Tourism confirmed that the government has surpassed its target Joseph Ace Durano. of 2.6-million foreign visitors in

DOT assistant secretary for planning and promotions Eduardo Jarque Jr. said the tourism industry in 2005 registered an alltime high of 2,623,083 arrivals, or 14.5 percent more compared to 2004's 2,291,352.

the industry was a result of inten- Aquino International Terminal 3 sified marketing campaigns, sales to help reach its target of 3-mil-

missions and international media exposure of the country, as well as the influx of visitors during the holiday season," Jarque said in a report to Tourism Secretary

December visitors - accounting for a record-breaking monthly arrival count of 281,836 - as well travelers avoiding the tsurami-stricken destinations in Asia in the early months of 2005 also combined to improve the arrivals

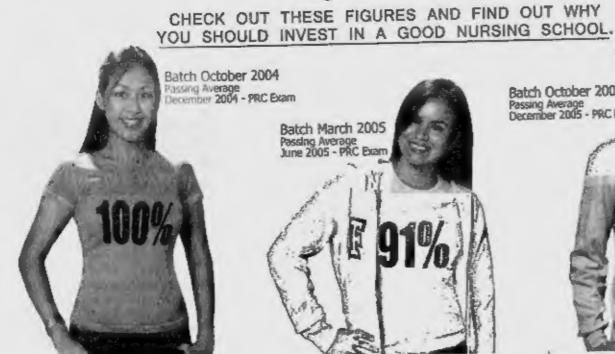
For this year, DOT is counting The strong performance of on the opening of the Ninoy

lion inbound tourists. Durano said a bigger airport means more inbound flights and, therefore, more tourists.

Jarque said the launching of Philippine Airlines flights to Beijing, China, has provided additional seats for Chinese tourists, boosting arrivals from the Philippines' fastest growing travel market.

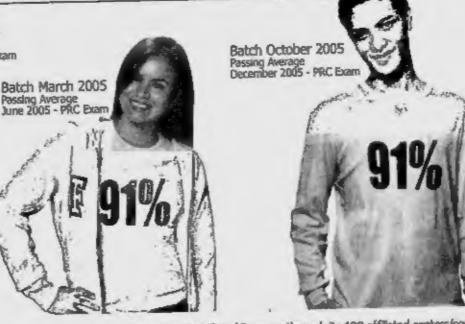
Although the China market ranked only fifth in terms of visitor volume, the 107,456 Chinese tourists who came to the Philippines last year represented a whooping 171.5 percent increase over the number registered in

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## Tragedy tempers 1st Mass rites

LIMASAWA ISLAND, SOUTHERN LEYTE -Simple rites marked the 485th anniversary of the First Mass on this island in deference to the tragedy that occurred in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, a month and a half ago that left some 1,000 people dead.

Limasawa Mayor Albert Esclamado sald the rown decided to cancel the festivities as a "sign of our respect for the victims of the tragedy."

A food vendor near the Shrine of the Holy Cross where the celebratory Mass presided over by Bishop Precioso Cantillas was held, noted that only a few people attended the celebration.

She said the visitors were fewer by half than those who came for last year's celebra-

This year's commemoration deviated from the usual activity showcasing the historical and tourism value of Limasawa Island and instead centered on remembering the victims of the Peb. 17 Guinsaugon landslide.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, the affair's guest speaker, said she was humbled by the invitation to speak at this particular time.

"I was humbled for this is no ordinary time. Not for Limasuwa, not for the province of Southern Leyte, (which is still) reeling from that unspeakable tragedy of which we are still finding the words to describe; of which the whole world cannot seem to make sense of."

"Thankfully, history speaks to us in symbols... 485 years later, the message of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass first held here resonates with greater meaning in Southern Jani Arnais, PDI Visayas Bureau Leyte."

# E Visayas grads can't find jobs

By Joey A. Gabieta PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY - THE COMMISSION ON Higher Education in Eastern Visayas revealed that out of the 8,000 to 10,000 who graduate from college in the region yearly, only a measly two percent are able to land jobs immediately.

The vast majority have to wait longer to find employment. Worse, some end up not being able to find jobs at all.

Domingo Gencianos, CHEd-8 education supervisor II, said this sad state of affairs was due mainly to the lack of jobs in Eastern Visayas.

There are not many job opportunities in the region for the thousands who graduate every year," Gencianos told the INQUIRER.

Geneianos said the assessment was based on the "informal surveys" they conduct regularly in the different tertiary schools in the region.

Forter Puguon, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), said the region's unemployment rate was high.

Based on DOLE-8 records, Eastern Visayas has over nine percent unemployment. Most of the workforce in the region, one of the most depressed in the country, are in the agricul-

> THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, April 2, 2006 5th Sunday of Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34 1st Reading: A new covenant

The time is coming-it is Yahwels who speaks-when I will forge a new covenant with the people of Israel and the people of Judah. It will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. For they broke my covenant although I was their Lord.

This is the covenant I shall make with Israel after that time: I will put my Law within them and write it on their hearts; i will be their God and they will be my people.

And they will not have to teach each other, neighbor or brother, saying: 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the greatest to the lowliest, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and no longer remember their

Hebrews 5:7-9 2nd Reading: He learned obedience

Christ, in the days of his mortal life, offered his sacrifice with tears and cries. He prayed to him who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his humble submission. Although he was Son, he learned through suffering what obedience was, and once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for those who obey him. Gospel:

John 12:20-33.

Hour of Jesus There were some Greeks who had come up to Jerusalem to worship during the feast.

proached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went to Andrew and the two of them told Jesus. Then Jesus said, "The hour has come for

the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. "Those who love their life destroy it, and

those who despise their life in this world keep it for everlasting life.

"Whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me and wherever I am, there shall my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will bonor him.

"Now my soul is in distress. Shall I say: 'Father, save me from this hour?" But, I have come to this hour to face all this. Father, glorify your Name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and I will glorify it

People standing there heard something and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel was speaking to him." Then Jesus declared, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours; now sentence is being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world is to be cast down. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself," With these words Jesus referred to the kind of death he was to die.

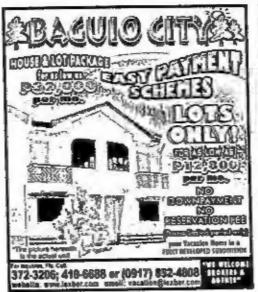
Commentary Always the hope for a new covenant, written on hearts, not of stone this time, but flesh and blood. God will have his people and they will be able to know God intimately, from the least to the greatest. Jesus is this covenant-obedience itself-reverent, even in suffering. And it is outsiders who seek the presence of Jesus through Philip's intervention, Jesus proclaims that he, the Son of Man, just judge of the nations, the lamb of God, will be lifted up, crucified, and yet he will be raised in glory by the Father. He is the servant of God and we are to be God's servants. The hour of dying and rising approaches. We, with Jesus, cannot avoid it. And in facing death, judgment comes upon the world, and Jesus will draw all to himself. It is time for us to be drawn to the cross together with Jesus.

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With the lack of jobs, Gencianos said, college graduates had resorted to small-scale businesses, like the buying and selling of

"While we do not disagree with their decision to go into business, we still somewhat feel sad that they were not able to make use of what they had learned in college," the CHEd official said.

Others, Gencianos said, seek employment outside the region, mostly in Metro Manila and overseas.









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# Naia 3 mishap won't deter airlines

By Nildto Dizon

DESPITE THE COLLAPSE OF A CEILING AT the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, domestic and international airlines would still move into the facility as long as the government ensured its safety and settled the legal hassles it is facing.

"The incident won't make us shy away from pursuing the opening of Terminal 3," said Ed Monreal, an airline executive and vice chair of the Airline Operators Council (AOC), in an

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The AOC is the organization of local and in- sion," Monreal said. ternational airlines operating out of Naia Ter-

#### Different tale

Monreal said it would have been a different story if it was a part of the structural framework that collapsed.

"It would be tough if it were a column or the floor or a portion of the building that caved in," he said, citing an incident two years ago at the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris where part of the terminal building collapsed.

"Majority of us still want to transfer to Naia 3. We're only waiting for the outcome of the contract issue. We hope Terminal 3 is opened. It's something we Filipinos will be proud of, and it would be a better terminal to work in," Monreal said.

#### Congested terminal

He said Naia 1 was becoming more congested, what with new airlines recently allowed to operate out of the two-decade-old

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Naia 3 was designed to accommodate 13 million passengers annually.

For his part, Leoncio Nakpil, AOC chair, urged the government to "look into the technical problems" of the Naia 3 build-

#### Eye-opener

"The government should concentrate on the safety and security aspects of the airport. (The ceiling collapse) was an eye-opener for all of us," Nakpil said.

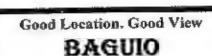
"We should look beyond the timetable for the opening or the test run, the publicity, the controversies," he added.

For his part, business tycoon Lucio Tan has reiterated his offer of \$300 million (P16.5 billion) in exchange for allowing Asia's Emerging Dragon Co. (AEDC), the consortium of taipans of which he is a member, to operate

AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay said in a separate interview that the offer was pursuant to the government's build-operate-transfer (BOT) program under which Naia 3 was

"After the Supreme Court nullified the government's contract with Piatco (Philippine International Air Terminals Co., builder of the terminal), the contract should be restored to AEDC being the original proponent of the project," Yasay told the Inquirer in a phone inter-

Piatco is claiming \$650 million as just compensation for Naia 3.



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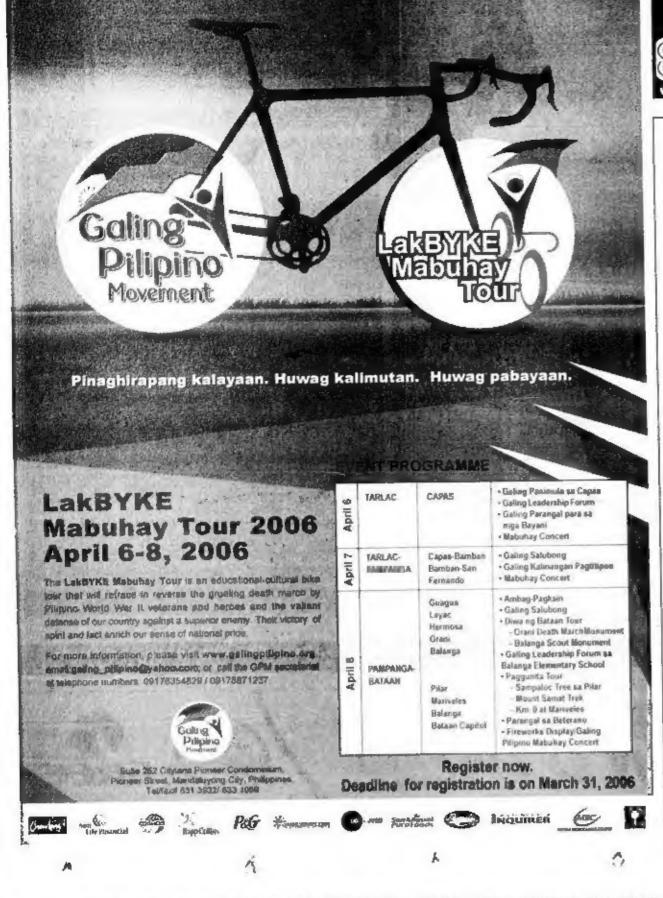
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# STL: Money said to be at root of PNP objection

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE HAVE MANY OBJECtions to the implementation of the Small Town Lottery, the numbers game being promoted by the government as a replacement for its illegal cousin, "jueteng."

But the objections boil down to one issue: Money,

Specifically, the police want to see clear guidelines on how their share of STL earnings, supposedly pegged at five percent, would be used, ac- provincial director. cording to a ranking official familiar with the police stand on STL.

"Will it be like jueteng, where the commanders spend the money at their own discretion?" the

The sources for this story refused to be named because they were not authorized to speak on the issue. They hold important posts in the Philippine National Police. One of them had been a

When the PNP cracked down on pueteng last year, the former provincial director said, the local police forces had "suffered" because payoffs from the illegal game had been partly subsidizing they will be getting 5 percent? their operations.

The officer admitted the police were "very interested" in their share from STL operations. The money would help the police a

the police after the sudden implementation of STL in some parts of the country, according to the source, were:

How can the police be sure

• From whom will the police get their share-from the local STL operator or the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the overseer of the game?

Will their share go only to

The other questions besetting the local police forces, or will it also go to the national police? The national police refers to Camp Crame-based offices.

These are the concerns of the police and the DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government)," the source said

But another ranking police official said, "Hindi puede iyan (That cannot be)," when he was asked if only the local pohee forces would be getting a

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(A local police unit, in fact, received some P170,000 during the STL test run this month, but the national police did not get anything. Upon learning this, a police general remarked: Dapat man long may abus sa taas (The higher-ups should) have been informed of this)."

The senior officer said the way he saw it, the police might have to develop a system to centralize the collection of their share later.

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# 2 alleged carjackers slain in Rizal

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE STOLEN TAXI WAS GETTING A FRESH coat of paint so that it could be used for some supposedly criminal operation when the lawmen came. Then shots rang out.

When the firing ended, the two men purportedly repainting the tast were dead, bringing to a bloody close an alleged carjacking operation that began at 1:45 a.m. yesterday in Quezon City and ended seven hours later near Berangay Rolling Hills Subdivision in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Two other people were arrested. "I instructed my men to just neutralize the suspects and shoot them in their feet. But the suspects were firing at my men," Rodriguez police chief Supt. Manuel Pion said, explaining why the two alleged carjackers were killed.

The dead pair were still unidentified as of press time. Police said the two had opened fire first and that they recovered two revolvers from the scene.

"We believe the suspects were planning to perpetrate other crimes, like bank robbery or kidnapping, and use the taxi as a getaway vehicle," Pion told the Inquirer.

He said his men got wind of the activities of the group when they received information at 5 a.m. that some people were spray painting a car parked on a street in Rodriguez.

Police launched surveillance operations. The suspects changed locations three times before hunkering down near Rolling Hills.

Special Weapons and Tactics operatives caught up with them at 7:45 a.m. As the police identified themselves, the two alleged carjackers opened fire, Pion said.

The pair died of multiple gunshot wounds. The two others, 17-year-old Remae Jane Rosso and James Vinluan, 23, were taken in for questioning. Roho and Vinluan denied any involvement with the slain suspects.

Police learned the vehicle being repainted was a Trocadero Transport taxi which was reported stolen by two women and two men in Pag-asa, Quezon City, at 1:45 a.m.

The taxi driver, Albert Acob, went to the Rodriguez police and identified the slain pair as the men who took his vehicle, Pion said

Acob also identified Roño as one of the tw women who flagged down his taxi, police said. Rono and Vinluan's But Roflo mid the police she was just forced stories were true.



THIS taxi was getting a new paint job courtesy of two alleged carjackers when the pair were accosted by police in Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal. The paint job was almost finished as the taxo's name can no longer be seen.

by the suspects to hail the cab. She also said the other woman who flagged down the cab later got off in Payatas.

Vinluan himself said he did not know the suspects. He said he was riding his motorcycle on his way home from a party when one of the two siam suspects approached him at Rolling

"He suddenly got on my motorcycle and aimed his gun at me. He instructed me to drive the motorcycle to buy paint," Vinhuan told the INQUIRER.

Later, he said, the suspects pushed him into the taxi while they painted the vehicle.

it was then that he heard gunshots.

7 raised my hands. I had done nothing wrong," Vin-Juan said in Filipino.

Pion said he was vestigating whether

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC President & Review Director

# Evidence vs publisher's killer weak - prosecutor

#### By Armand N. Nocum:

A SENIOR PROSECUtor who was relieved for ordering the dismussal of a murder charge filed against the alleged mastermind in the killing of Times Starline Recorder publisher Philip Agustin has denied being biased, insisting that the evidence against the accused was weak.

Special Prosecutor Emmanuel Y. Velasco, a former journalist himself, said be even proposed to Secretary Justice. Raul Gonzalez a further investigation of the case to establish the "possible complicity of Dingalan, Aurora, Mayor Jaume Ylarde in Agustin's killing.

Velasco, head of the Department of Justice panel that the case. conducted the preliminary investigation of the case, said Ylarde "has never been cleared" of in-İ volvement Agustin's killing in

Dingalan last May 10. In his Jan. 26 resolution of the case, Velasco's panel declared that there was not enough evidence to establish whether or not Mayor Ylarde was involved in the

kıllıng of Agustin. But he recom-

investigation of the self-from the case. involvepossible ment" of Ylarde be made by the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

decision prompted the relatives of Agustin to file a motion for reconsideration on March 16 and to ask for the disqualification of Velasco from the case, saying the latresolution ter's showed "manufest bias and grave abuse of discretion "in ignoring the vital (pieces of) evidence implicating Mayor Ylarde as principal by inducement in the

murder of Agustin." Acting on the matter, Gonzalez issued a department order on March 17 relieving Velasco from the case due to "serious allegations of partiality and bias" in handling

But in his memorandum to Gonzalez, Velasco said he handled the case with "only one thing in consideration in his mind-enough evidence that will stand in court against the accused."

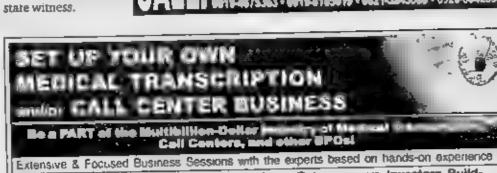
He said the allegations against him were "utterly without basis."

"It is very unfair to the undersigned. The record speaks for itself," he said as he mended that "further agreed to inhibit him-

Also charged in the crame were Reynato Morere, Nilo and Emmanuel Alday. Nilo and Alday remain at large.

Reynato, who was earlier arrested for the crime, has turned

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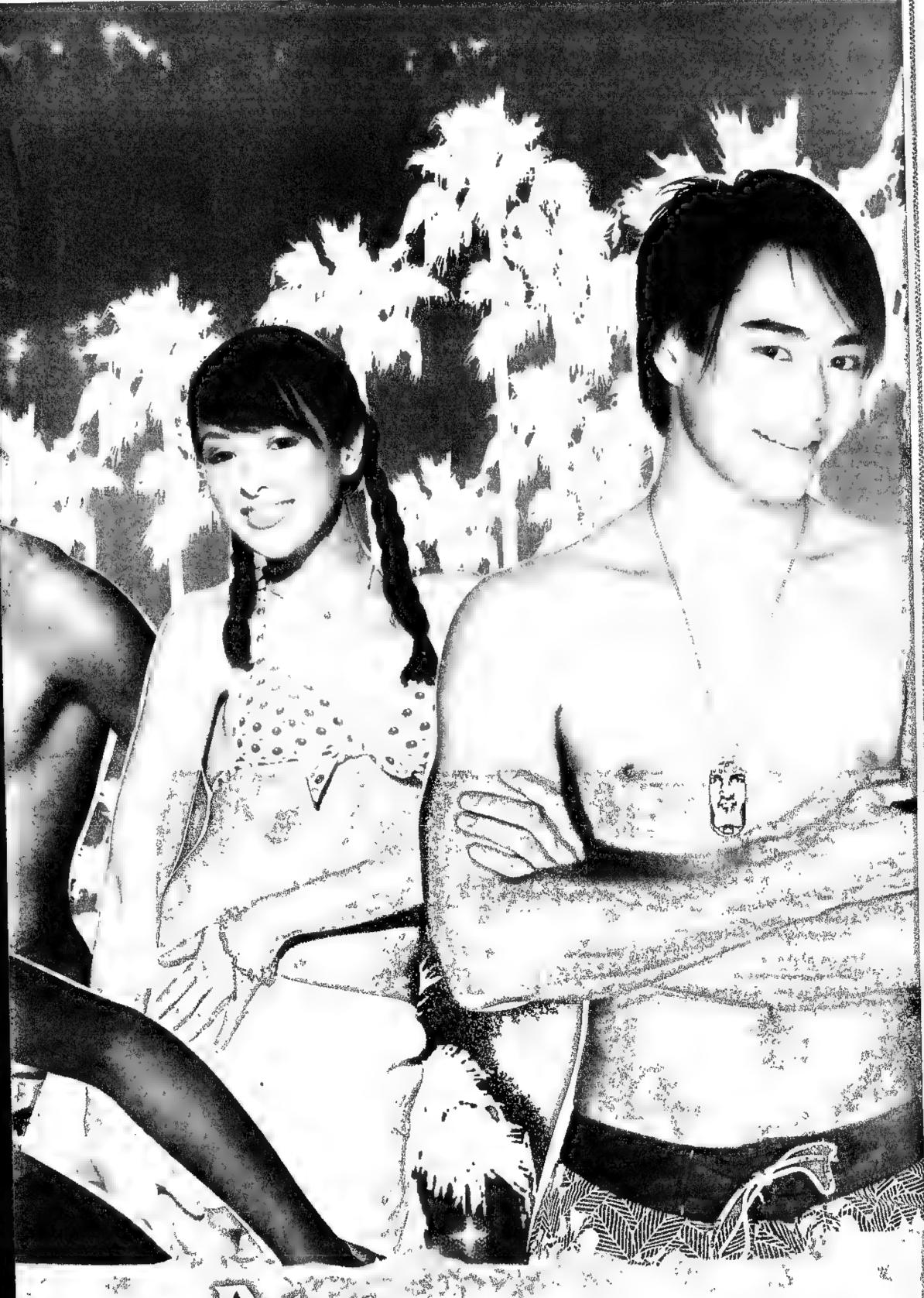
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## **Destructive politics**

OLUMNIST SOLITA MONSOD GOT IT EXACTLY right. President Macapagal-Arroyo's use of the train metaphor to describe the administration's Charter change strategy has inadvertently revealed its true na-

"The true power of the people is being felt with the signature campaign to change our form of government," the

President had said the other day, in a **EDITORIAL** transparent effort to emphasize the distinction between "the people" and the political class. The old-time politicians of the status quo better stand back because this train has left the station. It is time for politicians to stand back or get run over."

The President's curious choice of words reveals an almost murderous glee in the railroading of opposition and resistance. Old-time politicians? She must have especially meant those obstreperous senators, who have the temerity to insist on irritating inconveniences like the rule of law.

Of course, once upon a time, she had famously used the entrenched culture of old-time politics itself as part of the institutional rationalization for the Garcillano scandal. In explaining her "lapse in judgment" in calling an election official while canvassing for the 2004 vote was still ongoing, she repeatedly pointed to the degeneration in Philippine politics.

But she had always assumed, in her key statements, that while she was a product of "old-time" politics, she had the privilege of leading the transition to a new political order. Naturally, this begs the question: Why does a master of old-time politics get to ride this train, instead of

standing by or getting run over? The real answer, of course, is because she can. In the last few months, the Arroyo administration has put in place a new, ultimately counter-democratic policy, a way of proceeding which we can summarize in chilling terms: The political trumps the merely legal or the ethical. If it's within the reach of the so-called art of the possible, it will do. Let the Supreme Court or the people's conscience take their sweet time reaching decisions or resolving issues.

It is in this sorded light that Malacañang's deliberately tardy embrace of the politicians' initiative, coursed through barangay assemblies, makes most sense. The Supreme Court had ruled almost a decade ago that the first attempt at an enabling law for a people's instiative was inadequate. And yet the administration (in whose ranks we must include the nominally independent Commission on Elections) is pushing through with the initiative. Its message is clear: Let the high court play catch-up,

With the President's endorsement of the so-called "people's initiative" to create an interim parliament, Malacanang's protestations of non-involvement in the signature campaign turned into earnest exhortations. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson, said the time for constitutional change was ripe. "We have achieved momentum. Let us not lose it through de-

structive politics." But Bunye also unburdened himself of an inadvertently revealing cliché. "It is time for us to cross the Rubicon."

The phrase, of course, means to make a crucial decision, to pass a turning point. But again, servant mirrored master in the curious choice of words.

If Bunye knows his history, he should have known that when Julius Caesar finally crossed the Rubicon, Rome's most famous warrior started a civil war. That war eventually led to the death of the republic and the birth of the Roman empire.

Under Roman law, a commander of a Roman army was banned from crossing the Rubicon river—at that time a border that marked the territory of the city of Rome itself-with the army under his command. The law was meant to protect the capital from falling under the influence of the military. When Caesar finally crossed the Rubicon (according to the histories, that's when he coined the phrase "the die is cast"), his action led directly to civ-

The end of "destructive politics"? On the contrary, The momentum the Arroyo administration has generated signals the start of even more political divisiveness. The die is cast. And the stakes are unbearably high.



## Your Honors, RSVP

REACTING TO MY COLUMN OF MARCH 4. 2006, a reader apparently refutes my accusation that President Macapagal-Arroyo has abused her military powers and quotes from my book on Philippine Political Law to hoist me with my own petard. The quoted portion

"The 'power of the sword' makes the President the most important figure in times of war or other similar emergency. In theory, he plans all campaigns, establishes all sieges and blockades, directs all marches, and fights all battles. His leadership, if bold and decisive, can galvanize the people to galiantry or, if vacillating and timorous, can enfeeble them to defeatism and surrender. It is because the sword must be wielded with courage and resolution that the President is given vast powers in the making of military decisions.

"Accordingly, it has been held that he can determine what degree of force a particular crisis demands, as when President Lincoln declared a blockade of the Confederate ports during the American civil war, organize counts martial for the discipline of the members of the armed forces violating military law; create military commissions for the punishment of war criminals; and call out the armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion of rel

All correct except that the word "enfeeble" was inadvertently replaced with "enable."

But the discussion was of the military powers of the President "in times of war or other similar emergency," which was not the situation of the country when President Arroyo issued her Proclamation No. 1017 last February. We were not threatened with invasion from a foreign enemy, the local subversives were no more menacing (although noisier) than usual, and what she called a "cabal" at Fort Bomfacio did not have the dimensions of a national

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HUNTER WHO

discovered that his new dog could walk on wa-

ter. Overjoyed, he invited his neighbor to go with him the following day. Sure enough, the

dog would walk on water to retrieve every

duck they hit. Unable to contain his excite-

ment, the hunter blurted out: "Did you notice

anything unusual about my dog?" After some

thought, the neighbor replied: "Yeah, your dog

In today's Gospel (Jn. 12, 20-33), we are

told that some Greeks had gone to Philip

with a request to see Jesus. These "out-

siders" appreciated Jesus, while His fellow

Jews-for whom He had performed many

wonders and signs-did not and doubted

Him. Miracles are all about us, and many

signs are given to us, and yet we often miss

People who are focused on themselves can

hardly see Jesus. "Whoever loves his life los-

es it, and whoever hates his life in this world

will preserve it for eternal life." Selfish and

greedy people find it difficult to accept Jesus

and His message of sacrifice and self-denial.

How difficult indeed for the rich and those so

full of themselves to enter the kingdom of

Powerful people will have a hard time

seeing and appreciating Jesus and His mes-

sage about servanthood. "Whoever serves

me must follow me." People who have ser-

vants, money and power at their beck and

call hardly find the need to call on Jesus be-

cause their sense of security is anchored on

the things of this world. Sometimes, God

has to remove those things that give a per-

son a feeling of security in order to make

People who are not submissive to the Divine

him/her realize his/her folly.

the point and do not see Jesus.

can't swim!"

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

What the Supreme Court should do is simply deny such motions and consider the laggards in default for their delay

In fact, President Arroyo lifted her proclamation one week later on the ground that the "emergency" that justified it had abated. She added the reservation, though, that she would issue it again whenever she saw fit as commander in chief of the Armed Forces under her control or controlling her. Significantly, Congress has not granted her emergency powers under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2) nor has she proclaimed martial law, with all its limitations under Art. VII,

Sec. 18, of the Constitution she wants to revise Despite the lack of such authorizations, she continues to order warrantless arrests of her suspected enemies, threaten the media, break up peaceful ralties and assemblies, intimidate critics of her administration, limit the lawful investigations of Congress, and exercise other arbitrary powers as if we were at war or under a national emergency of her own making.

Proclamation No. 1017 and her earlier Executive Order No. 464 have been under protest for quite a while now before the Supreme Court, which has yet to rule on the constitutional issues raised by the controversial measures. The latest report is that the high tribunal has chided the parties for their repeated motions for extensions of time to file their pleadings but, as I suggested earlier in this column, what it should do is simply deny such motions and consider the laggards in default for their delay.

Or perhaps, and I say this with due respect, the justices are themselves biding their time to carefully study the pros and cons of the vital constitutional questions before them prior to arriving at a just and fearless decision worthy of the highest tribunal as the impregnable citadel of law and justice.

Still, considering the lapse of time since the presidential acts were judicially challenged,'I should think that the justices should have already thoroughly examined and analyzed the cases before them to be able to resolve them correctly. I know that they have a period of 24 months to do this, but I hope they will not wait until 2008 to rule on the constitutionality of Proclamation No. 1017 and EO No. 464.

Every morning, I wait with trepldation to see if the Inquirer is finally reporting that the awaited decisions of the Supreme Court or these cases have been made at long last. Although such a report will make this article obsolete, I am hopeful Just the same that such decisions will be rendered soon to appease the tensions and for the information of the anxious

Whether the justices will support President Arroyo or invalidate her challenged acts, the Supreme Court will have thereby defined its stand, for the people to accept or reject, through lawful democratic processes, as the Court of Last Resort. Meanwhile, tempus fugit.

## Seeing Jesus

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Will also find it hard to see Jesus. People who have their own agenda in life hardly pay attention or give value to God's agenda in their lives. People who know how to pray "Thy will be done," and who say "Father, glorify your name" are the ones who see Jesus in everything that happens in their lives.

A young doctor approached me last Monday afternoon to tell me how close he had been to death. He and others were trapped in a burning building. In that helpless situation, he just surrendered everything to the Lord and said "Lord, if you will take me now, please accept me in your kingdom." He told me that he took courage from the words I said during my homily the day before, that it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. Somehow, he said, he was at peace and ready for anything. Well, thank God he lived, but he certainly sees Jesus more clearly now because of his eyeball-to-eyeball experience with death. People who accept the reality of death see Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. Don't wait till you are at the doorsteps of eternity before you realize what life is all about.

A friend finally let go of a staful relationship. It was a very painful sacrifice, but she did it, with God's grace. Surprisingly, she is strong, and what preoccupies her thoughts now is not so much the man she loved, but the God who loves her and who is drawing her to Himself.

She realized that she had forgotten her God. She is still in pain, but very much at peace, all because she finally learned to let go, and let

Inviting you to our 10th Annual Family Recollection on Palm Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Meralco Theatre, which will be held with the help of the Mission Angels. This year's theme is "Letting go, letting God, and moving on." Start the Holy Week right. Bring the whole family. For inquiries call 7217457 or 4147044. Admission is free. Some priests will be there to give you the opportunity for confession and reconciliation with God.

Now available at Logos Publications (Tel. No. 7111323; telefax 7322736; e-mail info@logospublications.com) is the book of Fr. Leonardo N. Mercado, SVD, titled "Political and Legal Philosophies: Western, Bastern and Filipino." This book could help us understand the political events currently unfolding in our

Think about it: At the end of our lives, when we finally see God face to face, and He tenderly asks us, "My child, did you love me when you were still alive?" I hope you and I can answer, "Lord, you know me, and you know that I tried, I really tried to love you in

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A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remove the blocks that prevent me from seeing you and from loving you in my life. Amen

# How things have changed

NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 4, MARKS THE GOLDEN anniversary of PMA Class 1956. For the past few weeks, the surviving members of the class have been involved in activities commemorating this important milestone. From an original group numbering more than 80, only 51 of us were commissioned as second lieutements in the Armed Porces of the Philippines. After 50 years, perhaps our greatest achievement can be measured in terms of 229 children, 222 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

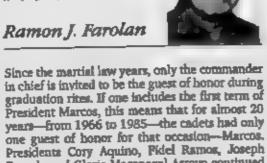
During the four years of our cadetship from 1952 to 1956, we served under two llocano presiidents, Elpidio Quirino from Ilocos Sur and Ramon Magsaysay from Zambales. This may come as a surprise, but not once did we get the opportunity to see the commander in chief in person, to hear him speak to us or to shake his hand. Not once did we honor either of them with a parade and review. We lived in a world that was completely insulated from politics and politicians. There was no television; no radios were allowed in our barracks, and no newspapers were easily available on a daily basis. Only the occasional visit of some foreign dignitary broke the dull routine of our everyday existence. In those days, the place was still known as Loskan. It was only after several years that the site was christened Port Del Pilar, in honor of the youngest general in the Philippine revolution against Spain.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, our commencement speaker at graduation—it was a period known as April Week—was the No. 4 official of the land, House Speaker Jose Laurel Jr. President Ramon Magsaysay was not available; Vice President Carlos ? Garcia was busy with some other engagement; and so was Senate President Gil Puyat. But ! guess for us, it really didn't matter who was going to be around. We had our loved ones and that was what counted. There was very little media coverage of the event. I don't think our graduation even made the inside pages of the newspapers.

Today things are not quite the same as before.



Ramon J. Farolan



the graduating class at Mansion House, the presidential retreat in Bagulo City. At one time, I suggested that, perhaps, the academy should take the risk of inviting someone else to its commencement exercises. It could be the leader of the opposition or, maybe, a war hero from among its alumni. I recall that US Sen. John McCain, a Vietnam was veteran with a distinguished record, was the commencement speaker at the US naval academy several years ago. In fact, I believe that McCain belonged to the "oppo-

Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo continued the practice. But this year, GMA did her predeces-

sors one better she tendered a dinner in honor of

sition" party in those days. But who is the brave soul in the military institution who would even dare hint that someone else other than the President should be considered for this event? Unfortunately, in our culture, it probably would be looked upon as a sign of disloyalty bordering on treason.

But I see an advantage in breaking this practice which is in danger of becoming a tradition. If we are to show our cadets that they owe their loyalty to the Constitution rather than to an individual, what better way of making them aware of this distinction

than by allowing them to interact on such a significant occasion with other elements of our political tife? This, of course, presumes a set of lead-ers—from both the opposition and the administration—possessing great strength and motal character, coupled with an open mind and an open heart.

This year, the graduating Class of 2006 was made up of 324 members. That's almost the size of the entire cadet corps during our time. Like the previous classes, the bulk of PMA Class 2006 is headed for the Army and, most likely, its members will receive their baptism of fire against Muslim secessionists and New People's Army elements within days of reporting to their respective assignments.

The life of a platoon leader is not an easy one. in my case, I had the good fortune of having a grizzled, old veteran for my platoon sergeant. He taught me things not found in the tembooks and training manuals of the academy. I shall always be grateful for his wisdom and guidance.

Air Porce notes: Last Friday saw the graduation of 46 new military pilots from the Philippine Air Porce Plying School in Lips City. Thirty-three of them were student officers from the PMA while 13 were aviation cadets. Against the backdrop of an exodus of local commercial pilots to foreign lands, the government should pursue with greater resolve the expansion of the current training programs of the Flying School. One sugrestion from the Asian Institute of Management s to devote some resources for the purchase of relatively inexpensive light aircraft that can be used primarily for maintaining the flying proficiency of our plious instead of waiting, waiting for promised aid that apparently will not see the light of day during our time.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PMA Class 1985, was the senior guest panelist on a recent TV program featuring the Air Force. Once again, he came across as an articulate, knowledgeable spokesman for his organization. And he smiles! The Air Porce is forcemate to have him in this important role.

## Graduation, high heels and changing the world

I'VE BEEN LOOKING PORWARD TO GRADUATING EVER since I was shoved sobbing into my first nursery classroom. If get my hands on that diploma, I swear to all the saints in heaven that I will give up fast food, read intelligent, mind-expanding literature instead of ten-peso romance novels, and spend at least one hour a day in healthy exercise. I'll give anything: my soul, my battered teddy bear Alex, my hour of

watching Princess Lulu on TV—all I want is that sheet of REBEL paper. I'm not asking WITHOUT for much, just a miracle, Hopefully in A CLUE the form of a three in Spanish 11 and a sig-**Patricia** nature on my thesis Evangelista acceptance form.



I've been camping out in front of my theris adviser's third-floor office for the last couple of weeks. The janitor is so used to seeing me sprawled on the floor that he's taken to sweeping around me instead of asking me to shove over. I'm guessing he's noticed that the rather sizeable square area my butt occupies is shinier than the rest of the hailway. I'm glad to be of service.

The other day, I was in my usual spot when I saw John Lloyd Cruz racing down the hail. He stopped short when he saw me, smiled that charming, slightly confused grin, then crouched down to my level to ask me if he could keep me company. I bit my lip, batted my eyelashes and tucked my hair behind my ear. Yes, John darling, yes, a thousand times yes and in true dramatic form, I woke up to my adviser's raised eyebrow and her voice ringing in my bead.

"Patricle, what are you doing there?" "Sleeping, ma'am."

"Did you get any sleep last night?" "No ma'am," I said.

She opened the door to her office, "Good." I've been living on energy drinks lately. They work, trust me, especially with a shot of espresso. I'd gulp down a couple of glasses; sit down in front of my laptop, and type away like a maniac. I go from a limp rag to a bouncing, gigg.ing pajama-clad monster in the space of two minutes. Half the time, I feel like I should be typing, jogging and singing "The Hills

Are Alive" all at once When my adviser began texting me that it would be best if I put off sleeping for a week or so, I thought she was kidding. She wasn't. At the rate my thesis is going, I'm beginning to wish Pd stopped sleeping two months ago. My thesis is qualitarive instead of quantitative, for no other reason than that I have difficulty adding two digit-numbers. The thought of running a statistical analysis is more frightening for me than tripping spread-eagled while wearing a miniskirt in front of a crowded cafeteria. Oh wait, been there, done that.

I've been begging interviews from people I've never seen, calling in favors from everyone I've met or could have possibly met in the last 20 years, and I've reached a point where the thought of eight hours' sleep is as ridiculous as getting my dog to realize his name isn't "No." As I type now, my eyes are crossing, the screen is getting fuzzy and my unmade, clothingstrewn bed is beginning to look like a feather-stuffed cloud. I'm out of caffeine. If I live through this with my mind intact, 171 Be very surprised. I spent 20 minutes looking for my cell phone yesterday until I realized I could call it to make it ring, and when I found it, I spent the next 20 staring into space, trying to figure out how to make my wallet ring. Kuya Cesar, who drives our shuttle-slash-jeep, has taken to asking me every morning if my thesis was done. He hasn't gotten a "yes," not yet.

I had my defense the other day, and had less than 10 minutes to get dressed, get to school and get ready to be interrogated. So there I was, crawling across the floor of my bedroom, trying to find my black heels and coming up with one left and one right from two different pairs. My adviser's one warning the day before my defense was "please dress decently." I found my suit jacket covered with white cat hair, jumped into the jeep, jumped off, jumped on again to fetch the jacket I'd left on the floor, and found myself in the middle of the road when the clouds burst open and water started pouring down. And no, heels are not made for running.

I'm beginning to wonder what all this is going to amount to. Not just this, the whole 17 years of classrooms and textbooks and memorizing names of dead men. I mean sure, what like every other girl below the age of 25 dreams of, after I graduate, I want to save the world, solve world hunger, make a difference, and hopefully buy three pairs of stiletto heels a week (I know a couple of guys who will agree with that statement). But they say it's the idealists who suffer most, because the real world doesn't want salvation. But I'm at the grand old age of 20—today, I can believe I can do anything.

I'm off to thesis work again-monumental revisions before the-powers-that-be sign those empty boxes in my acceptance form. When all this is over, I'm going to set my alarm clock for S a.m. every morning and happily sleep through it. But whether I march down the university stadium this year or the next (please let it be this year), I'd like to send out a huge congratulatory shout to all the new graduates of 2006. May the force be with you, and may the world blink with your coming.

B-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

## Women with curves



SET TO PREMIERE ON HBO ASIA THIS TUESDAY (April 4) at 10 p.m. is the HBO Original Movie "Real Women Have Curves."

It stars America Ferrera as Ana, a young Mexican-American woman. (This movie gave Perrera her first screen role, although she must already be familiar to Filipino audiences through a later film, "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.")

Lupe Ontiveros, Ana's mother Carmen, is another familiar figure. She stars in "Real Women" and she must by now be best known as the overbearing mother-in-law of Gabrielle (Eva Longo-Yia) in "Desperate Housewives."

"Real Women Have Curves" is based on the play by Josefina Lopez and is directed by Patricia Cardoso. When it was first shown at the Sundance Film Pestival in 2002, the movie won both the Audience and Special Jury Awards for On-

Young Filipino women might find many things in common with Ana who, as the movie opens, has just graduated from high school and is struggling to come to terms with herself, her heritage, her family and her body. The last is especially difficult to achieve given that her mother is constantly on her case to lose weight and dress better, if only to cland herself a husband who will set her on the road destiny as a wife and mother

But Ana has other plans for herself. Her teacher and champion, portrayed by George Lupez, believes enough in her to work to get her a scholarship to Columbia University, despite Ana's own lack of confidence and her parents' opposition. She knows sharing the fate that ties her mother and older sister Estela to grunge work in a garments shop is not for her. And neither is early ,marriage nor motherhood. What is a young woman to do at a crossroads in her life, on a hot sultry summer in LA?

ONE of the things she can do is to finally de-'clare independence from her mother's stric-

Sweltering in the airless interiors of her sister's garments shop-there is a fan but it cannot be turned on as it would raise dust-Ana begins to strip to her underwear, much to the chagrin of Carmen who feels embarrassed and

ONE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT ALMOST EVERY Flipino today desires change in the way the nation is run. What form that change should take is, however, the subject of much debate. Some believe that if only we can have better leaders, there may be no need to change the system. Others think the quality of our leaders is itself a result of

ine defective system we have. I think that if Filipinos were asked today to choose between changing the Constitution and changing Gioria Macapagal-Arroyo, the great majority would Junk Ms Arroyo and keep the Constitution. This does not mean that the people are satisfied with the 1987 Constitution. Indeed, many may think that an entirely new constitution is the cure-all for the nation's problems. But serious advocates of the rewriting of the Constitution know that a basic requirement for doing it right is the insulation of the process from the narrow ob-Jectives of partisan politics. Right now, it is such objectives that are driving the "Charter Express,"

It is obvious what these are. The first is to abolish the Senate, the only branch of government that has dered to investigate criminal charges 'against Ms Arroyo with persistence and independence. It is this Senate that will automatically constitute itself as an impeachment court the moment an impeachment complaint obtains a onethird vote in the House of Representatives. The recond is to lay to rest, once and for all, the legitimacy questions that have bounded Ms Arroyo's presidency since 2001, and all the criminal charges arising from the fraudulent conduct of the 2004 elections.

Clearly, Charter change, by hook or by crook, is Ms Arroyo's last card in her bid to survive till (2010 and avoid prosecution and imprisonment at the end of her term. This is the institutional route she offers as a way of resolving all challenges to her rule. Given the weakness of her hand, this bid is truly astounding in its brazenness, it concedes nothing, not even a shortening of her term as President. Yet it rests on nothing more than the

angered by her daughter's wanton display of ample flesh. But, in a scene that is easily the film's highlight, the other women in the garments shop, including Estela, follow Ana's example and begin to compare cellulite and stretch marks.

It is a moment both sweet and exhilarating. By refusing to remain covered-up, Ana and the women are declaring independence. Not just from hot and restrictive clothing, but also from shame and embarrassment that have kept them from appreciating their womanly forms and their curvaceous figures. Shedding their clothes, they are also declaring their personal freedom from social expectations of how a roper" woman, on the prowl for a husband, should look like, behave and believe.

Estela, dutiful and decorous, has long labored under her mother's pressure for her to get married, gently sliding into compliant spinsterhood had it not been for the example set by the "baby" in the family. Slowly, fitfully, Estela begins to explore her artistry and assert her own autonomy. And Carmen, in denial about her age (she "mistakes" her approaching menopause for pregnancy), and desperate to keep her youngest child in her tight embrace, gradually learns to let go, however painful it might be.

BUT it is Ana, in the powerful personification of Ferrera, who stages the most dramatic breakaway. In that single summer, she comes into her own as a woman, and discovers depths-and curves and folds and pleasures—in herself.

Even if forced to work in Estela's dress shop, steam-froning fancy gowns--for which the wholesaler pays them \$12 each and then retails them for over \$300 each-Ana begins to learn

valuable lessons from her co-workers, her sister and her mother. Lessons in hard work and putting in hours of honest labor, Lessons in doing your share for a group effort. Lessons on speaking out

and speaking up. But most of ail, Ana realizes that it is only by being true to herself, by keeping faith in her own abilities and gifts, and by leving her own body can she find her own road and discover her real

THERE are no real arcs to this simple comingof-age story. There is no one single breakthrough moment where Ana transforms from an adolescent full of questions and doubts, to young adult forging her future.

Instead, what we have are many momenta of triumph, as in that "stripping" scene in the factory, or when Ana insists that her boyfriend turn on the light before they start making love, forcing him to look at her body, after which be declares "you're beautiful."

"Real Women Have Curves" takes us on a journey with Ana, and like all journeys in life, it is not straightforward, but rather meandering and full of detours. But the story does get to its destination, and we are all the richer for taking the trip.

Another thing I like about the movie is its:

ting in the Mexican-American culture, chockfull of telling details-from the wall murals that abound in the barrio, to the muriachi crossing the street, clad in their brilliant costumes, to Ana's "primos" singing for her on the occasion of her graduation, and even the statue of San Antonio in the kitchen shelf, whose presence is meant to guarantee a husband for the family's blossoming baby.

Carmen the mother is ostensibly the movie's villain, but the character instead evokes sympathy, if not fondness. I confess to recognizing my own mother in her character-alternately stern and demanding, gentle and comforting, and a first-class exploiter of filial guilt, a drama queen of the first order. If only for making me remember Mama, I'm grateful for the time I spent with Ana and the other real women with curves. After all, I'm also one of them!

## Doing it right

#### PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

notorious ability of her political operators to produce outcomes by preying upon the poverty, the indifference and ignorance of the masses.

By its constitution, a nation declares itself as a legal and political community. The constitution expresses our self-understanding-who we are, and how we have been shaped by our customs and beliefs, and by our past. It situates the nation in the modern world, and embodies its understanding of the various external forces that shape and constrain the nation's life. And finally, the constitution lays down the system of power deemed appropriate to the nation's goals, the institutional arrangements by which the state governs, and a statement of the people's basic rights.

Rewriting a constitution need not be a hit-andmiss affair. There's a way of doing it that minimixes the perils of blind experimentation or utopian thinking, and points the way to a living and usable Charter. We might learn a thing or two from New Zealand's experience.

Although it has operated for the most part without a written constitution, New Zealand has, since 1980, tinkered with its basic conventions and parliamentary acts. In April 2000, the Institute of Policy Studies, a think-tank in the Victoria. University of Wellington, convened a path-breaking conference on "Building the Constitution." The conference aimed to take stock of what the country has learned from its previous efforts to craft a living constitution.

The organizers commissioned brief papers (not more than four pages) covering a wide range of topics. A quick glance at the themes taken up

gives us an idea of the conceptual map that guid-

ed the conference.

There were 10 sessions: (1) "What constitutes our nation" discussed the cultural and historical realities that have shaped the national consciousness; (2) "The constraints of treaties and international law" dealt with aspects of international law, and the constraints posed by a globalized economy; (3) "What constitutes the constitution" looked at the political origins and legal framework of the existing constitution, (4) "The treaty of Waltangi and the constitution" dealt with the basis of the nation's sovereignty and Maori rights; (5) "Multiculturalism and the constitution" tackied issues of cultural diversity and national integration; (6) "Who should be head of state" examined the implications of declaring a republic or staying with the Crown; (7) "The Cabinet, public service, and sub-national government" tackled the relationship between the Cabinet and the Parliament, the civil service, and the role of local governments and community organizations; (8) "Should parliament be changed" examined the various options pertaining to representation; (9) "What role for the judges" reviewed the proper scope of judicial authority; and (10) "A written constitution?" discussed the pros and cons of shifting from the Westminster tradition to a republican form with an embedded bill of rights.

I do not mean for this list to serve as a model for the Philippines, for indeed it reflects the specific priorities and concerns of today's New Zealanders. We should have our own list expressing the problems and dilemmas we have encountered in the course of our nation's life.

You put such an imaginary list side by side the stupid omnibus question that serves as the basis for the signature campaign of the so-called "people's initiative," and you get an idea of the contempt with which the Arroyo regime regards our

Comments to public lives @gmail.com

Opportunities

THEY SAID

choicest positions."

Useless formula

Take all available opportunities and, if not, make these opportunities available." -Top Philippine Military Academy graduate 2nd Lt. Ariel Tolodo

in his speech during the PMA's graduation rites

"No amount of five-point guidance will remove the

restiveness among military personnel, especially when

the central figure in the 'Hello Garci' tape is now the

prospective replacement of General Senga (AFP chief

of staff) while the others were rewarded with the

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Surge's formula for questing military

Emotional being
"Being gay is not a state of mind; it's your emotional being. I've never had a boyfriend but it doesn't mean

that I'm not gay, I don't have to be a screaming faggot to be gay. This is me, and I'm gay." -Actor Rustons Padilla

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



By Sixto K. Roxas

mental destruction.

ic and social systems.

try's hinterland

households

THE LEYTE AND "WOWOWEE"

tragedies highlight in gruesome

sharpness the two perennial prob-

lems of the country poverty and environ-

lems, we must see the Filipino nation as composed of three worlds—three econom-

To understand the depths of our prob-

Eighty-five million people in some 17

million households live in habitate that

range from coastal fishing villages, lowland river valleys, and alluvial plains to rolling

lands and steep mountain ranges, and in

system than with the rest of the coun-

They are the unport-dependent enter-prises of Metro Manila, Subic, Clark, Cebu

and Davao, textile mills and food process-

ing plants, industries in the export process-

ing zones, logging and mining companies,

plantations and service establishments that

provide power, communications, insur-

ance, banking and other financial and cleri-

cal services to these enterprises and their

Most of our people, perhaps two-thirds,

live in the commercializing agranan soci-

eties-fisherfolk, rice, corn and coconut

farmers, small traders, artisans and service

people, landowners and proprietors in the

A small rumority are the tribal peoples in small, largely self-sufficient and subsis-

tence communities on remote islands and

Combined, these agrarian and tribal set-

Seventy percent of Fibpinos are in

in the metropolitan enclaves. Trax-

these tribal and agrarian worlds; 30 per-

ically, it is the metropolitan sector that

commands the primary attention and is

too often taken to represent the totality

National policy has paid less attention

to helping the 70 percent of the Filipino

people acquire the technology, organiza-

tion, and human and capital resources to

make use of their resources in order to

raise themselves to higher levels of eco-

nomic efficiency and improve their liv-

Instead, growth policy has meant having

the metropolitan economy appropriate and

acquire control of the land, forests, miner-

als, marine and fresh water resources of the

rural communities to serve the needs of ur-

ban and foreign export markets and further

In fact, the growth strategy of the gov-

ernment and the acquisitive instincts of the

metropolitan elite systematically transfer

assets and control of resources away from

the rural sector. The expansion of these en-

claves of wearthy and westernized commu-

nities has become the very definition of

Realistically, a growth strategy that does

not give the highest priority to the needs of

the community stakeholders cannot be sus-

tamable, economically, ecologically, social-

ciety has persisted over the six-decade his-

tory of the country as an independent re-

public. The structure has remained as a re-

sult of a wide spectrum of economic poli-

The Constitutional Commission that was

drafted, after Edsa I, what became the Con-

stitution of 1987 embodied in principles

and guidelines what the people were de-

prived of all through the 14 years of the

Marcos dictatorship: authentic democratic

freedom and an equitable and sustained

Unfortunately, the country's elite and its

leadership have since dedicated their at-

tention not to fighting the common enemy,

poverty, but to pursuing power and wealth

in the Pllipino oligarchy's favorite

cies, strategies and political systems.

The three-riered structure of Filipino so-

growth and progress.

Unsustainable

ly or politically.

enrich the rich and powerful minority.

tlements encompass some 11 or 12 million

families living in some 225 watershed com-

Metro commands attention

highlands of the country.

of the Filipino nation

ing standards.

Some 30 percent of these households are in an economic system more inti-mately linked with the world trading

sprawling metropolitan centers.

# TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to N jaarmiento@inquirer.com.ph p

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento jr.

# One nation, three worlds

THE THREE WORLDS OR ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT DEvelopment economist Sixto Roxas is referring to are the metropolitan centers, agrarian societies and indigenous communities.

Under the present setup, growth is defined as the expansion of the metropolitan economy as a result of the transfer of assets and control of resources from the rural communities, according to Roxas.

He says the focus continues to be on the gross domestic product, which does not reflect the real incomes of most Pilipinos.

The economist claims that the development strategy-liberalization of trade, tor of development.

opening up of the country to foreign investors, privatization of public corporations and emphasis on export-oriented industries—that the government has pursued since the '60s has resulted in environmental degradation and more people living in

Roxas proposes a development strategy that seeks to empower the people outside the metropolitan centers.

He is pushing for sustainable countryside development in which an increase in the net income and net worth of communities is considered the more appropriate indica-

> cred to that school of economic theory and and managerial paradigms either to expolicy, the average long-term growth rate in real GDP from 1962 to 2003 was a miser-

abie 3.8 percent per annum. The value of the peso went down from 50 US cents in 1950 to 33 US cents in 1962 to less than 2 US cents. The foreign debt of the country grew more than 55

Macapagal pere, with his doctorate in economics, reversed the inward-looking policy of his predecessors from Roxas to Garcia by removing import and exchange controls and restoring the free market in foreign exchange in 1962.

The Macapagal fills, with her doctorate in economics and her team of neoliberals, promised to move aggressively with renewed vigor and determination to catch up with our neighbors along the same path.

#### Starvation despite growth

Thus, the focus continues to be on gross domestic product (GDP), an indicator that does not reflect the real incomes received by the majority of the nation's families.

GDP can be growing while large numbers of people are starving and the net worth or wealth of the nation's families is rapidly dwindling through exhaustion of natural resources and transfer of control to foreigners.

The government relies on export industnes to eradicate poverty. The more complete figures of 1994 show exports contributing a measly 4 centavos out of every peso of income received by the country's families. Is it any wonder that even doctors are downgrading themselves to be able to work abroad as nurses?

Since foreign investors are not interested in going into the medium and smallscale ventures that contribute most to the incomes of the households in the mediumand small-sized communities in the country, our expectation that foreign investors will relieve our people's poverty proves to

be yet another myth.
We hear much about Pilipinos shooting themselves in the foot by clinging to nationalist policies that encourage our own people to undertake the primary role for domestic development. Will we not pre-cisely do that by changing our 1987 Constitution to suit foreign investors whose response is dubious, and even if positive, will only enhance industries that will sharpen the divide between the wealthy few and the impoverished many?

#### Profit from resources

Regardless of personality, popularity or legitimacy, our country's leadership has constantly used a weapon that, instead of curbing the problem, has exacerbated it.

This has been to create the conditions for private business capitalizing on foreign investments to profit from our resources. The mantra is that what is good for business is good for the general welfare. If business sales are booming, exports are healthy, enterprise profits are fat, all is well with our world.

But somehow, opening up our markets and giving foreign investors free reign over our resources have not solved and will not solve poverty or environmental destruction. Our six decades of experience has shown that in the end, no one but outselves can really pursue a sustainable development strategy that makes our people the principal beneficiaries.

In the countryside, poverty has persisted and worsened. Migrants continually troop into Manila and Cebu and Davao-the cities made prosperous by the business

thrust of the '50s People were not considered the beneficiaries of the economy. They were the

"problem." Increasingly, the growth in their numbers was considered the main problem of the country. Therefore, the ultimate solution

was to control their rapid multiplication. Development and modernization have come to mean the substitution of largescale, often foreign-controlled, enterprise for community as the basic unit of organization in society.

#### Decentralize

Our age has the advantage of technological development, making possible the achievement of all the important economic advantages of scale in nonhierarchical but decentralized and networked organizations.

It is now possible for communities—the village, the market town and the small cities -- to be the primary units of organization, management, planning and resource administration, and even accounting. They can now be networked through a participatory, bostom-up decision-making that makes democracy a day-to-day process of "administration by the administered" rather than a periodic exercise of a people's prerogative to select the leaders who will be their masters.

The country does not lack professionally trained economists and other social scientists, organization and management experts. But the repeated fallures of diagnosis and prescription seem to demonstrate the madequacy of the economic, social science

plain our condition or to prescribe an effective strategy and protocol of action.

#### Viable alternative

All this leaves us with but one viable alternative-genuine countryside sustainable development. A framework that gives a more appropriate and meaningful indicator of development and where the bottom line is an increase in the income and net worth of communities. This community-centered and ecosystem-based alternative demands a fundamental rethinking of development management, its unstruments, practitioners, and institutions to march the realities of the H Philippine condition with the opportunities ' and threats of globalization.

The realization of this will put a stop to environmental destruction and address poverty directly.

The key is in making communities in their , ecosystem the unit of organization and management. Feeding, clothing, housing, health care, education and life enhancement of the local communities must be the primary ob- ? lective in the use of local resources.

It establishes in a different communitycentered accounting system a philosophy of management that honors the income, and net worth of local communities to ensure that their sustainable development governs the priorities of the use of their nataral endowment. Sustainable communities make a sustainable country.

It recognizes that we must return our natural resources whole and productive to our children and their children. This we cannot do if 1) we exhaust them so we canenjoy a luxurious life or 2) sell them to foreigners to pay off our foreign debts.

#### Accounting system

It remains true to its commitment to the community's welfare by tracking development with an accounting system that honors' the integrity of the ecosystem and the preservation and enhancement of the community's net worth, the true measure of its wealth.

The government makes much of the improved exchange rates between the peso and the US dollar. The peso remains strong in the face of political turnoil? A community-centered analytical perspective would view this as a symptom of a pathological economic structure-a mark of sidoness rather than of health.

The reason comes out of an analysis that understands the dynamic Interaction between the metropolitan and the agrarian worlds that make up the Philippine economy

The continuous appropriation of agrarian resources by the metropolitan economy diminishes the capacity of the rural economy to sustain the 70 percent of the population that . rely on those resources. Large numbers of the it young population of this sector are forced to migrate to the metropolitan centers. But the outward orientation of these centers fails to provide enough livelihood apportunities to support those migrants. They are compelled to seek Jobs in those countries where the demand for high-tech persons has made the more mental tasks unattractive—the "caregiving" and housekeeping jobs.

#### Paradox

The combined trends produce a paradox; the peso is strong because the local, economy is weak and weakening.

The metropolitan economy has become merely a subordinate link in the globalized network. The domestic economy is becom-13 ing increasingly weaker and more disintegrated. The larger agrarian sector has little 11 purchasing power from purely local pro-,, duction and purely local demand is weak, The growth of overseas Filipino workers has made the remittance of their earnings a more important source of foreign earnings than net export of goods.

The demand for foreign exchange is a largely for intermediate products going into i exports, and the hixtery consumption of the elite. That has grown more slowly than the supply of foreign exchange from overseas workers' remittances. Hence, the strength in the pero-dollar exchange rate. The weak lo-

cal economy has resulted in a strong peso. The Arroyo administration should claim is credit for both cause and effect.

If it continues its policy and strategy, we a landslides in Quezon, Aurora and Leyte, i.

and the "Wowowee" tragedy in the future, in the 1987 Constitution we already have the mandate for an opposite development strategy, it calls explicitly for local governments to exercise local autonomy with the goal of making local communities

economically self-rebent. Let us therefore defend the Constitution of 1987 and honor it by observance rather, than by its systematic violation and the eventual junking of the basic principles and directions around which the people wrapped their dreams after they had toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

(This paper was excerpted from a speech delivered by development economist Sixto K. Roxus at a Rotary Club convention in Davao , City on March 11.)





LUS FRATION AND PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

## Top and bottom provinces in inequality

Mani Inequitable Provinces	Progress	Richest 10%	Ratio: Alchest 10% to Pearest 10%	Laux	Poorest 19%	Richari 18%	Retio: Richest 10% to Poorest 10%
	2.8	31.9	11.6	Batanes	5.0	17.7	30
lollo	2.6	30.8	11.8	Арауло	5.0	19.2	3.8
Davao del Sur Misamis Oriental		30.5	11.9	Sulu	5,1	19.6	3.9
Zemboange del Sur	2.7	33.1	12.4	Yawi-Yawi	5.0	20.0	4.0
Bukidnon	2.6	33.1	12.7	Basilan	5.1	23.2	4.5
Zamboenge del Norte	2.8	38,2	12.0	Maguindanao		25.2	6.2
Cebu	2.4	31.7	13.4	Guimaras	4.5	24.3	5.5
Camarines Norte		39.3	13.5	Bidden -	5.7	1 31,9	÷ 5.6
Negros Oriental	2.3	37.3	16.3	Sersegen	4.8	27.3	6.7
Lanzo del Norte	2.4	41.4	17.0	lfugao '	4,4	25.1	6.7

Note: Making Marine 3.2%, Gloveria to 1 1955, No. 1005, Source Philippine Human Development Report 2005

game—politics. Oligarchy

development.

Government policy since 1987 has violated the constitutional mandate that development should establish a "self-rellant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos."

What had burst into the world scene as the glorious "People's Revolution" turned into a mere restoration of the pre-Marcos social and economic oligarchy—a sad sequel to those four glorious days of Febru-

frontcally, the 20th anniversary of the event was celebrated in a strange fashion. the promulgation of Proclamation 1017, the cancellation of all permits to celebrate

the event, and the forcible dispersal with clubs and water cannons of all crowds seeking to celebrate the anniversory

In issuing Proclamation 1017, the administration had asked the people to accept a measure of its tyranny in order to give it enough power to destroy this greater and more cruel "tyrant," Rather than pursuing that objective under the principles and along the path laid out in the 1987 Constitution, the administration chose to pursue with greater vigor the path prescribed by the World Trade Organization and the "Washington Consensus" that past leaders had followed.

The development strategy pursued by every Philippine president from the Macapagal pere (1962-1965) to the Macapagal fills (February 2002 to June 2004) has fol-

lowed the conventional wisdom espoused by the Bretton Woods institutions, the industrial countries, the international banks and transnational corporations: liberalization of international trade, opening up of countries to foreign investors, privatization of public corporations, deregulation of public utilities, emphasis on export-oriented industries, priority of public sector investments in infrastructure primarily to facilitate foreign trade and to remove policies that favor Pilipinos over foreigners in ownership of natural resources.

#### Boom and bust

Over that span of over four decades, the country's economic performance has been erratic, going through about 16 cycles of boom and bust. Even by the indicators sa-

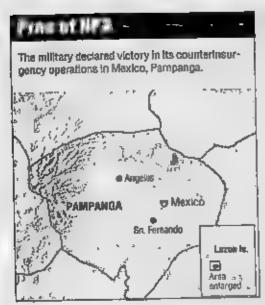
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# Pampanga town declared free of NPA



By Tonette Orejas PDI Central Luxon Desk

MEXICO, PAMPANGA—AN ARMY COMMANDER ON SATurday declared this town, considered as one of the strongholds of the communist movement, as free from the influence of the New People's Army.

To celebrate that status, the military and barangay leaders organized an "anucommarrist" seminar-workshop for some 600 "former NPA supporters," medical missions for residents and an "anticommunist rally" a few days after the NPA on March 29 observed its 37th founding anniversary.

Lt. Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the 69th Infantry Battalion, said these were the culturnating activities of the campaign that began in November 2005 or two months after Maj. Gen. Jovito Pai-

paran assumed lendership of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon. "All the villages have been cleared of

rebels," Visaya said here on Saturday. The NPA, he send, held sway in at least

19 of the town's 43 villages before the campaign started. At about the same time, the battalion transferred its headquarters from Bamban, Tarlac, to Mexico.

Instead of maintaining platoons, the military deployed smaller special operations teams complemented by paramili-

tary forces recruited from the villages.

Sought for reactions, the NPA command in Pampanga sneered at the military's action.

The NPA said it would "continue serving the interests of the impoverished masses by being their genuine army and by fighting the fascist military that protects the interests of the landed elite and capitalists."

Visaya said military offensives and the diminishing support of residents had forced rebels to move to western Pampanga, at the boundary of Zambales and Bataan.

Three rebel returnees spoke in the workshop but their messages camered on a single message: Withdraw support for the NPA to "end the violence" and "restore peace and democracy" in the town.

One of them, who preferred to be

called Mylene, related how her husband, also a rebel returnee, was killed by rebels in 2002 for "no good reason."

T witnessed how unjust the NPA

Benjamin Bautista, village chief of San Jose Malino, said the military did not force him and other local officials to organize the assembly.

We want peace to reign [here]," Bautista said.

Visaya said the military was sustaining its efforts in Mexico through the government's "Kalayaan sa Barangay" program in which President Macapagal-Arroyo aliotted P5 million to every village freed from the control of the rebels.

He said P4.5 million would be allotted for infrastructure projects and the remaining P500,000 for livelihood projects. These would be supervised by the military.

# Albay villagers feast on meat of dead dolphin

LEGAZPI CITY-VILLAGERS IN Barangay Tinopan, Rapu-Rapu, Albay feasted on the meat of a 70kilogram dolphin which died after it was entrapped on Friday morning in a fishnet of Juan Demasito Araojo, a resident of Binosawan, same Barangay

Binosawan village chief Reynold Asuncion confirmed the report in a cell phone inter-

Asuncion said they buried what was left of the sea mammal and took a sample for examination by government authorities.

He said nothing happened to those who had eaten the meat of the dolphin.

Earlier on Feb. 9, the Bureau of Pisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) issued its fifth study showing that fish from the Sorsogon coastal areas facing Rapu-Rapu Island is safe to eat, contrary to claims.

Officials of the Lafayette Philippines Inc., whose mining operations in Rapu-Rapu town had been alleged to have contaminated the waters of the is-



A DOLPHIN swimming in the waters of Bohol. Residents of a village in Albay had feasted on the meat of a dead dolphin after it was caught in a fishnet. A mining firm said it was proof that there was no contamination in waters off its operations site.

parts of Sorsogon, said BFAR's continuing tests consistently showed that there was no mer-

land-municipality and some cury contamination as claimed fish, destroying the livelihood of by its critics.

scared off people from buying Southern Luson Bureau

thousands of Sorsogon fishermen These groups' claims had in the process. Edgar Alejo, PDI

## Time for Cha-cha sign bid tagged too short

COTABATO CITY-THE TIME form local institutions like the spent for the barangay assemblies in connection with the signature drive on the proposed Charter change is too short for people wanting to learn more about the process, a city councilor here said.

Wilfrido Bueno, also former director of the Commission on Elections in Central Mindanao, said the limited time deprived the people of information on the long term effects of amending the Constitution.

Bueno also said those behind the so-called "people's intiative" appear to be not eager to tell the people what the move was all about.

He cited the failure of pro-Charter change officials to formally inform the city council of the conduct of the barangay as-

"There was no correct information about it (Cha-cha petition), and if they failed to in-

city council, an official, a lawyer like me, how else could the ordinary citizens have been better informed?" Bueno

Khalid Almudin, a former student leader in one of the colleges here, said the government could use other media, like the Internet, to make copies of the petition widely available

"Apparently, no extra copies were made available of the petition, which was supposed to indicate proposed revisions to the Constitution," Alimudin said.

He said voters needed more time to go over the draft people's petition, which was simultaneously presented nationwide during the March 25 barangay assembly, so they can generate better informed discussions on Cha-cha. Nash B. Maulana and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

# Agri execs say bugs threaten 60-80 percent of Panay farms

THIS species of black bug threatens rice

supply on Panay Island.

By Hazel P. Villa PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-UNless the notorious Black Bugs (RBB) that eat the bases of rice stems are soon controlled, about 60 to 80 percent of Panay Island's rice farms would be infested, said the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) of

Provincial Agriculturist Zafiro Palabrica said the RBB (Scotinophera coarctata, S. berida) also threatens to hit Po-

Horlo.

totan town in Iloilo that produces 44 percent of the island's rice supply since the bug has been spotted in Dingle, its immediate neigh-

Palabrica said Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban would like the government to focus on controlling RBB infestation In Iloilo since it produces 20 percent of the country's rice needs.

"Quarantine is no longer a good idea because (RBB) has reached the province of liotlo," said Palabrica.

But he added that the areas that should remain in quarantine are the boundaries of Iloito to Capiz, Ilodo to Antique and Ilodo to Ak-

Palabrica said the RBB is one of the most difficult pests to manage and a mere 10 RBB bugs per hill can result in a yield loss of 15 to 23 percent.

The Philippine Information Agency here also reported that Capiz province is also "readying contingency measures against any possible invasion of the RBB."

Capiz provincial agriculturist Sylvia de la Cruz said Gov. Vicente Bermejo has alerted municipal agricultural officials about the threat and to report the presence of RBB in

their areas. The rice pest was first spotted in the first week of March in the barangays of Pinantan Elizalde and Pinantan Diel in Ajuy, Boilo when agriculturists from the Department of Agriculture were inspecting hybrid rice and a farmer asked them about the presence of black bugs in his rice farm. PAO records showed that more

than 1,000 hectares of rice farms in Ajuy and the neighboring towns of Concepcion, Sara, and San Dionisio in northern Boilo have been infested by the RBB, locally known as "bakuko."

The damage in Concepcion is minimal because the rice fields planted for the third cropping is less than five hectares," Concepcion Mayor Raul Banias in a text message.

Also called Malaysian rice black bug and Japanese rice black bug, the RBB sucks rice plant saps and prefer to infest the bases of the rice stems, causing the plant to weaken. Heavy infestation causes stunted growth, formation of white heads, half-filled or empty grains and browning of leaves or bug burn.

Palabrica said he has recalled municipal agriculturists from their regular assignments to help the infested towns.

Both Palabrica and De la Cruz said an effective way of combating RBB is to use high intensity light traps since the bugs are attracted to bright lights and can therefore be easily collected and destroyed.

Palabrica said light trapping is most effective during the full moon on April 15 or even three days before and after that date.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) said its research shows that a few days before and after a full moon, a farmer is sure to catch more RBB in the field than any other day and if boats or fishing vessels, which carry bright lights, travel on a full moon night, the RBB can be attracted to these lights and be carried from one place to

PhilRice said the first RBB infestation in the country was observed in Palawan where it sparked an outbreak in 1982, damaging some 4,500 hectares of rice lands. After a decade, the RBB invaded several areas in Mindanao including Zamboanga City, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. In 1998, it was sported in Negros Occidental and Siguijor.

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Certificates or Ayala Malls eGCs to 10 lucky winners who will spend it all in an afternoon shopping spree. The P100,000 Ayala Malls eGC prize can be used in eGC-affiliated establishments within Ayala Malls.

It's so easy to join-shoppers need only to write their name, address, contact number and signature on a carton of Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals' two variants—Spicy Fresh and Peppermint Ice. They can also enclose three Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals sachets in an envelope and drop their entries in drop boxes at all LBC branches nationwide.

Introduced last September 2005, Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals is the only toothpaste with the breakthrough breath strips called Cooling Crystals. When brushing, these Cooling Crystals instantly dissolve in the mouth, which is specially formulated and patented to give a burst of breath freshening power.

There will be two winners each from Metro Manila, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The provincial winners will be flown in or driven to Metro Manila, with free hotel accommodations and travel expenses courtesy of Colgate-Palmolive. Jay-R and Shaina will then join the 10 winners for an afternoon of shopping at Glorietta on May 13, 2006.

Consumers can still join as the deadline for the submission of entries is extended to April 17, 2006.

Watch out for the draw date on April 21, 2006 as 10 winners will get a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shop with the stars.







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# INQUIRERMindanao

Editor jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Business picks up in new fish port

By Jeffrey M. Tupas Datu Montawal, Maguindanao

ER APPEARANCE IS A FAR cry from the popular view of a fish vendor. She does not smell of fish but of sweet perfume that is popular among younger women.

But her composed but alert expression sug-

gests that she is all business.

Nida Turo, 32, has become one of the most weil-known fish suppliers in Tunggol, a small barangay in the newly created municipality of Datu Montawal in Maguindanao. The place has become a popular source of freshwater fish among traders from the nearby cities of

Kidapawan, Tacurong and Midsayap.
On the concrete boat landing, amid the chaos of porters carrying fish boxes, buyers checking fish stocks, and suppliers haggling over prices. Turo is silently counting and re-

counting her supply. "If you miss the count of a single tuhog (fish tied in a knot), you may lose a day's net profit. You have to be very careful, since some of the price is determined by the size of the fish," she

At the Tunggol port, a P1.3-million structure constructed by the US Agency for International Development's Growth with Equity in Mindanso (GEM) Program, Turo is one of the most sought-after fish suppliers. Her fresh stocks come all the way from the liguasan Marsh, one of Asia's largest wetlands and rich source of a variety of freshwater fish species.

"I have to strive hard since I'm currently feeding more than a dozen people," said Turo, who lost her husband after a long struggle with hypertension.

Turo does not have children, but she has 10 siblings and their children who depend on her g for their daily needs. Hers is a story common among some single women who, because of their superior business and trading skills, have assumed responsibility in supporting their closely-knut families.

"When my husband dled, I decided to keep myself busy in just about any activity to overcome my depression. It was at that time I decided to take over my husband's business in I fish trading," she said.

Growing business

She did not simply take over her husband's business. With an investment of P5,000, she bought more fishnets, set larger fish traps, and A hired more people to expand the enterprise.

In less than a few months, Turo began earning a daily gross income of almost P3,000, almost triple her late husband's average.

She now sells more than a dozen varieties of fish, with live carfish being the most popular.

"I cannot antibute all of my increased earnings to my decision to expand the business. A major factor is also the influx of buyers getting more interested in Tunggol after the completion of this boat landing," said Turo, speaking of the facility that was constructed about two years ago.

The facts seem to warrant this conclusion. After the landing area was completed, the number of boats docking in Tunggol has increased by about 30 percent. Likewise, the volume of fish landed at the facility rose by about 50 percent, attracting more buyers and g, traders from nearby cities and municipalities.

Junaida Singgon, a fish buyer from Carmen town in North Cotabato, confirms this. During her almost 10 years in the business, she has moved from one town to another to look for a constant supply of freshwater fish.

First buyer

"When this boat landing was completed, I was one of the first buyers to use this facility, and there were only a few of us here. Today, around 25 buyers visit the place and compete for the best catch," she said.

A trip to Tunggoi means a long day for Turo, whose routine starts with supervising the segregation of the day's catch by variety, packing the fish in wooden boxes, and bringing them to the port in an outrigger boat

The boat ride from the Liguasan Marsh takes about two hours, so we have to start packing before the break of dawn," she said. Her day usually ends at about 5 p.m., when the last batch of buyers arrives.

"You can just imagine the kind of conditions we had to endure before the construction of the boat landing," Turo said

Before, the place was just a clearing where boats docked along the muddy riverbank. Fish suppliers and buyers transacted business under the scorching heat of the sun, hauling their weres through the mud. If it rained, buyers and sellers alike got soaked.

High-impact project

"Look at me now! I can already afford to put a little makeup on my face and sit comfortably under a shed while waiting for the buyers. I don't have to smell of sun-dried fish," she said.

Doing business while being protected from the sun and the rain are just some of the benefits people attribute to the facility.

"The boat landing is among our high-impact projects designed to boost rural productivity, lower transport costs, and connect once inaccessible himerland communities to market centers,"

explained Ronaldo Ypil, GEM regional manager,

The infrastructure, he said, did not only benefit the more than 4,400 residents of Datu-Montawal, but also allowed the municipal government to generate revenue from the increased volume of transport and trade.

it has also become the barangay's convergence point for goods and passengers arriving from nearby sitios and clusters of fishing communities.

While Turo tries to meet the buyers' demands for better quality of fish, she is also setting her sights on the possibility of reducing the costs she pays for her products. Paced with increasing transport costs, she plans to embark on a new venture.

"I will build my own boat. Not big, but just enough for my needs," she declared.

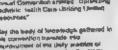


SINGGON. a fish buyer from Carmen municipality in North Cotabato, checks the quality of fish arriving at the Tunggol Boat Landing, in Datu Montawal, Maguindanao. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

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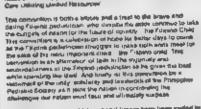


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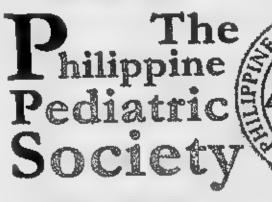
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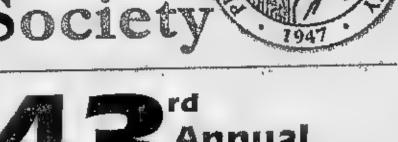
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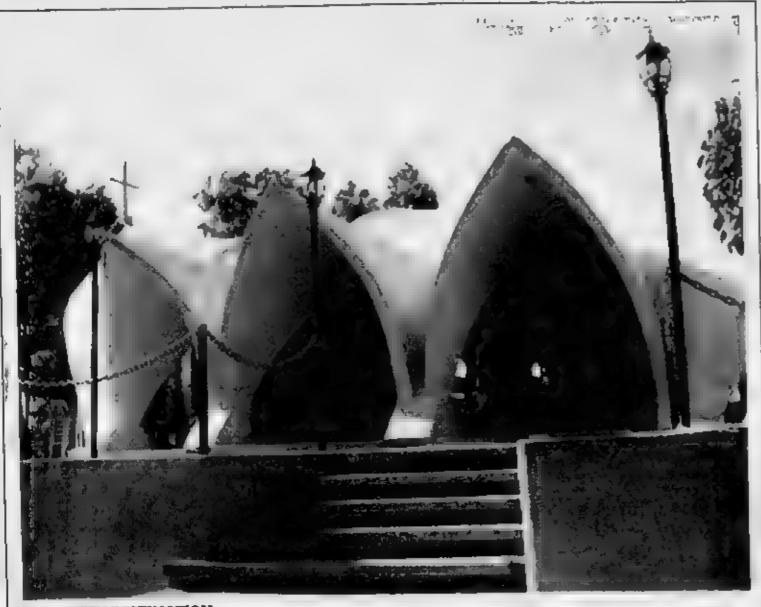
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#### Across the NATION



HOLY WEEK DESTINATION

If you're summering up in northern Luzon, you might want to check out the Transfiguration Chapel, a place of tranquility in the Dariok Hills, Balintocatoc, Santigao City in Isabela. It's a place designed for harried lowlanders to reflect and meditate on God and nature. Or, just a place to be.

# Noli tells ejected NorthRail families: Give gov't more time

sident Noli de Castro on Thursday asked residents, who were relocated to give way to the NorthRail project here, to give the government more time to address their needs.

De Castro, the concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), met with former residents of Barangay Bangkai who complained that the government's promises of electricity, potable water, comfortable housing and other basic services in their relocation area in Northville 8 were not delivered.

De Castro assured residents in the 15-bectare Northville 8 that he would ask the National Housing Authority (NHA), city officials and the developer, Goldenville Development Corp., to hasten the electrification of the community.

He said power would be available in the area in May.

"We are not Superman so please give us a little more time to address your needs. Please help us, let us help each other," De Castro told the residents.

Resident Erlinda Sonano said many of the 3,000 families in Northville 8 were planning to abandon their housing units be-

CITY OF MALOLOS-VICE PRE- cause of the condition of the relocation site and the lack of livelihood opportunities there.

The residents, who were formerly living along the Philippine National Railway track in the city, moved to Northville 8 in November and December last year.

Soriano said they wrote De-Castro to inform him of the residents' actual conditions at the relocation site.

She said many residents also complained that their water sources were near where septic tanks were built.

In an earlier interview, Federico Laxa, NHA general manager, said water samples from 60 of the 106 deep wells built in the relocation site have passed the Department of Health's standards.

Laxa said the remaining 46 deep wells were being tested.

An assessment done by the Department of Education also showed that a school building with at least nine classrooms is; peeded in the area to accommodate children of residents.

Mayor Danilo Domingo said the city government and local business groups have committed to fund the construction of four classrooms in the community. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Lu-

# Gov says P200-M landslide donation intact

By Jani Arnaiz PDI Visayas Bureau

Leyte-Gov. Rosette Lerias has released an accounting of at least P200 milion in donations so far received for the victims of the Guansaugon landslides amid million. questions on where these went.

here Friday commemorating the National Disaster Coordinating 40th day of the Feb. 17 land- Council (NDCC) and the national

a total of P180 million.

The Ph lipping National Red Cross got P160 milion, the ST BERNARD, SOUTHERN Southern Leyte Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), about P18 milhon, and the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC), P4

The total amount did not in-The governor, in a conference clude donations received by the slides, said three entities received government, through President

about P15 million, provincial officials here said.

Lerias, St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim and Red Cross officials made the public accounting during the joint PDCC and MDCC meeting held at the lobby of the St. Bernard municipal hall on Fri-

It was attended by some uees from five endangered villages, many of whom wanted to rounding Guinsaugon that have in

Lerias said she resented the slides. baseless accusation that she kept some of the donations.

"We have been very transparent with our dealings. You can tions, which are all receipted," the governor said.

Lerias also said not all dona-Guinsaugon survivors and evac-tions would go to Guinsaugon be-

they are also at risk from land-

Of the donations that went to the Red Cross, P11 multon came from local individual sources; P17.7 million from local compalook into the records of the dona- mes or institutions, and P129 7

million from foreign corporations or institutions. The Guinsaugon victims are, meanwhile, already assured of

Macapagal-Arroyo, that reached know where the donations to be cleared of residents because about 2 km south of the town; proper of St Bernard. The lot was acquired for P3

million from the cash donations that the municipal government received, according

Residents of three of five oth; er endangered villages-Hinabian, Magatas and Sugan gon-which were also evacuat: ed, would be relocated in cause there are other areas sur- relocation at a 5 7-hectare lot Barangay Catmon, 4 km north Barangay Magbagakay,

# 'Punks 11' sue cops for rights violation

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET-THE 11 backpackers whom police said were among the suspected communist rebels who raided an Army detachment in Mankayan town in February filed charges against the police for allegedly violating their rights when they were arrested without warrants.

The group, called "Punks 11" by human rights lawyers here, filed the complaint on Friday before the Benguet prosecutor's office.

They said the six policemen who arrested them on Feb. 14 while they were on their way to Sagada, Mt. Province failed to show them arrest warrants.

The lawyers of the backpackers said the policemen were accused of violating the suspects' rights under Republic Act No. 7438, the law defining the rights of persons arrested, detained or taken under custodial investigation.

The suspects earlier complained that policemen beat them up after their arrest but Benguet police officials belied the claim.

Named in the complaint were Supt. Brent Madjaco, Sensor Insp. Joseph Paulo Bayongasan, SPO1 Alyson Kalang-ad, PO2 Jonathan Pucya, PO2 Wendell Baglao and PO2 James Ayan Jr.

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Benguet posice director, said they believed that the suspects were among the group of New Peo-

ple's Army rebels who raided the Mankayan detachment.

"There is nothing to say because the case is already in court. But we stand by [our] belief that they were the ones who raided the detachment," Bumanglag said in a telephone interview.

in a preliminary hearing on Thursday at the regional trial court here, police said they stopped the dump truck, where the 11 backpackers hitched a ride, in a checkpoint in Buguiss

Lawyer Randy Kinaud, one of the backpackers' lawyers, said the police told the backpackers that they had the right to remain silent and the right to be represented by a lawyer.

But Kinaud said the police violated the law when they questioned the backpackers without the presence of their lawyers.

Last week, lawyer Pablito Sanidad of the Free Legal Assistance Group and officials of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance asked Judge Benigno Galacgae to dismuss the robbery with homicide charges filed against the sus-

The charges were related to the death of two soldiers and amilitiaman and the seizure of at least 23 firearms during the raid.

Destree Galusa, PDI Northern

who packed the St. Michael the

Archangel Church to pay re-

spects to the fallen leader on Fri-

Omega fraternity massed out-

side the church as the necrologi-

Filipino Students (LFS), said

Hugo was the first youth and

student leader slain since the

government launched a crack-

down against militant leaders in

sailant in the evening of March

Hugo was killed by a lone as-

Police had not identified his

In her eulogy, Marie Espeleta,

Cris' former teacher in elemen-

tary, said the bullets that

stopped Cris would never be

able to stop his dreams and vi-

even after Presidential Procla-

mation 1017 had been lifted?"

she asked referring to President

Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration

of a national state of emergency.

priest of Sorsogon City, who was

Msgr. Francisco Monje, pansh

Why are there still killings

cal services went underway.

Banner-bearing students and

day afternoon.

the country.

kilier yet.

19 in Albay district.

SORSOGON—RAIN ated the requiem Mass, urged to bundreds of relative people to continue with the failed to stop hundreds of relafight for justice and for what is tives, friends and supporters of slain student leader Cris Hugo.

"But fight with love in your heart," he said.

Crisostomo said demonstrations and rathes will continue nationwide to protest Cris'

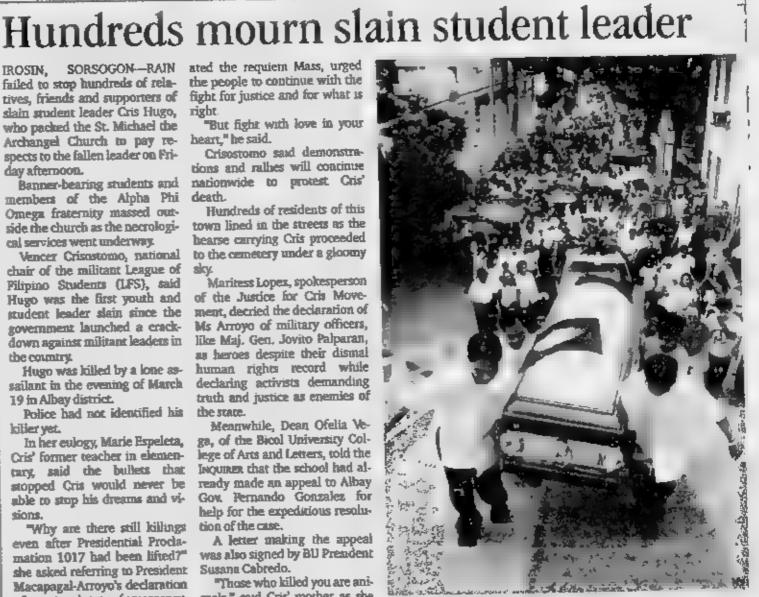
members of the Alpha Phi Hundreds of residents of this town lined in the streets as the hearse carrying Cris proceeded to the cemetery under a gloomy Vencer Crisostomo, national chair of the militant League of

Maritess Lopex, spokesperson of the Justice for Cris Movement, decried the declaration of Ms Arroyo of military officers, like Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, as heroes despite their dismal human rights record while declaring activists demanding truth and justice as enemies of the state.

Meanwhile, Dean Ofelia Vega, of the Bicol University College of Arts and Letters, told the Inquirer that the school had already made an appeal to Albay Gov. Pernando Gonzalez for help for the expeditious resolution of the case.

A letter making the appeal was also signed by BU President Susana Cabredo.

Those who killed you are animals," said Cris' mother as she sobbed while Cris' remains were being buried. Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luxon Bureau among the six priests that offici-



FRIENDS, relatives and family gather at the St. Michael the Archangel Church in Irosin, Sorsogon to bury slain student leader NAMED RESULT OR RETAY FOR SOUTH ERRY LAZON BUREAU

# MILF says it's wary of pledges of int'l aid support

COTABATO CITY-THE MORO for the peace process, through aid Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has welcomed international donors' pledges of support for war-torn Mindanao, but said it would adopt a very cautious ap-

proach to it. Muhammad Ameen, head of secretariat of the MILF central committee, said the international donors' pledges could be "double-edged and could eventually destroy (MILF)." organization the

He said that while the MILF welcomes international support

packages to conflict-affected areas, it opposes any effort by the government, donor countries or nongovernment organizations to use these to undermine support for the MILE

"We do not want this money to be used against us by normalizing the situation without really solving the Bangsamoro problem," he said in a statement. adding that the MILP does not want to suffer the fate of the Moro National Liberation Front

He said the MNLF had a good vision for the Bangsamoro people but failed to institute effective measures to sustain the gains of their struggle.

On Friday, international donors pledged to increase assistance to support the government's efforts to bring peace to Mindanao, long troubled by a

Moro insurgency. the progress being made on the Mindanao peace process. She emphasized the importance of an early peace divi-

inclusion," World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg told reporters in Tagaytay City following the Mindanao development forum attended by President Macapa-

gal-Arroyo. The Mindanao Working Group subsequently considered ways to support the govern-The President told us about ment's peace and development initiatives, especially for conflict-prone areas that have thus far been neglected," said Amsberg who recently visited Min-

projects.

But Ameen said the MILF leadership has learned from the mistakes made by the government

and the MNLP The government and the MNLE then led by Nur Misuari, signed a peace deal in 1996 aimed at ending the Moro rebel-

Ameen said the money was taken in the name of Bangsamoro people and MNLF as recipient, but the money just went to the pockets of gov-

dend on growth and greater danao to check on development ernment leaders, NGOs, and few MNLF commanders.

He said in the end, Misuari was made the scapegoat, accused of corruption and incompetence in governance, which largely was not true.

Ameen also clarified that the MILP has not made an official appeal to the international community for aid and won t do so until the peace panels of the government and Mil.F has listed guidelines on how the money would be spent Edwin O. Fernandes, PDI Mindanao Bureau

# World looks back on Pope John Paul the Great

## Catholics will have to wait for John Paul's sainthood

Paul II may be a near certainty to join the fied. panoply of Christian saints, idolized as he was by millions during his lifetime, but the message from those closest to the cause for his canonization is that it won't happen anytime soon.

"The road is long, there's still a lot of work to do," said Monsignor Slowomir Oder, the 46-year-old Polish priest overseeing the investigation of miracles attributed to the late pope.

Proof of one miracle attributed to John Paul II is required before he can be beatified, the first step to sainthood. A second miracle attributed to his intercession with

God would be necessary for full sainthood. John Paul II died April 2 last year, reportedly telling those on his deathbed before slipping into a coma, Let me go to the Lord.\*

During his massive funeral a week later, banners appeared in the crowd demanding that the pope be made a "saint now."

Just a month after that, the new Pope Benedict XVI dispensed with the normal five-year waiting period which traditionally must pass before a process of beatification can even begin. The Diocese of Rome promptly announced the cause of beatification of John Paul II on June 28.

Oder has since undertaken an investigation into the life and virtue of the late pope, and formally interviewed many of the people who knew him, including former Polish president Lech Walesa.

Poles are especially proud of "their" pope, and many hope that Benedict could announce his predecessor's bearification when he travels to the country in late May.

It is however France, a secular country, which could yet provide proof of the mira-

VATICAN CITY—THE LATE POPE JOHN cle needed for the Polish pope to be beast

At a location kept secret by Church authorities, Oder presided over a hearing earlier this month into a French nun's claims that she was miraculously healed of Parkinson's disease when she prayed to the late

The identity of the num, who claimed her cure took place last October, has not been made public.

Oder told Italy's state broadcaster RAI this week that another alleged miracle, this time the healing of a man suffering from an incurable liver disease in the United States, would also be investigated.

His task is made considerably easier because many of those who knew the pope throughout his life are still alive.

However, it has not all been plain sailing. In December, 11 dissident Catholic theologians said in a letter to the Vatican that they opposed sainthood, and insisted that the "negative" effects of John Paul II's pontificate be investigated.

In particular they cited his rigidly conservative stand on issues such as contraception, the role of women and sexual abuse scandals within the Church.

Once the inquiry by the Rome diocese is completed, the report will be passed to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, which sooner or later is likely to propose that Benedict recognize his predecessor's "heroic virtues" and proclaim him blessed" at a beanfication ceremony.

John Paul II is himself known as the greatest "saint maker" in the history of the Catholic Church. He created more saints -482 -in the more than 26 years of his pontificate than all the other popes put togeth-

For more than half the world's one billion Catholics, he was the only pope they had ever known.

This weekend Rome will collectively east its mind back to the extraordinary events of last year, when some three million people flocked to Rome to pay their respects to the late

Rome's streets were filled by a tide of humanity as mourners waited their turn to tearfully file past his body as it lay in state in St. Peter's

Thousands slept overnight in the Via della Conciliazione, the broad avenue which leads to the Vatican, to get a vantage point at his funeral. Some 300,000 attended the requiem Mass, celebrated by the man who succeeded him, the dean of the College of Cardinals Joseph Ratzinger.

#### Commemoration rites

This weekend, ceremonies are being held across the world to mark the anniversary of the death of John Paul II, while up to 100,000 pilgrims are expected to attend a special prayer vixil led by his successor Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church will recite the rosary from his window overlooking St. Peter's Square on Sunday evening, at the precise moment the Polish pontiff passed away, 9:37 p.m. (3:37 a.m. in Manila), the Vatican said.

John Paul II died on April 2 after a long battle against crippling illness, ending a 26-year pontificate as spiritual leader of 1.1 billion Catholics.

Benedict XVI, the German-born former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was elected on April 19.

Rome's police chief Achille Serra told journalists Friday that organizers were expecting "at least 100,000" pilgrims to attend the commemoration. around half arriving from elsewhere

Some 5,000 pilgrims are expected from John Paul IPs native Poland

The organizational effort in Rome has dealt with greater numbers in the past," said Serra, calling attention to the countless pilgrims who arrived in Rome for the funeral of the pope last

Sunday's ceremony will begin with prayers, hymns and readings from the works of John Paul II organized by the Rome diocese, of which the pope is bishop.

On Monday, Benedict will cale-

"SPOKESMAN OF THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY" was stilled a year ago today but his repute as the the dominant moral voice of the age, as victor over communism, and architect of Christian reconciliation with Jews, is undimmished, brate a solemn memorial Mass for cus even greater interest in John Paul John Paul II in St. Peter's square at

Most poignant Other commemorations are taking place in Mexico, Montevideo, Manila and across the Catholic world, where the faith's 1.1 billion

5:30 p.m. (11:30 p.m. here).

members will be asked to remember the former pope, who visited 104 countries during his more than 26year pontificate. But perhaps the most poignant commemorations will take place in

Krakow's Wawel Cathedral, where a special Mass will be celebrated by John Paul II's former private secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz.

Dziwisz has asked Poles to wear a white ribbon on the anniversary, as a symbol of their "gratitude and joy" at knowing the late pope.

The following day, the bells of Wawel Cathedral will be rung at 9:37 p.m. during a special prayer Mass in which the cardinal will receive a torch being carried Olympic-flame style from John Paul IPs tomb in Rome.

"Lolek's torch" -a reference to a nickname for Karol Wojtyla used by relatives and friends-was lit Tuesday from a candle next to the tomb in the crypt of St. Peter's.

A Mass will also take place outside the birthplace of the former pope in

Simple torrib swamped by tourists

The anaiversary is expected to fo-

II's tomb, situated close to the Apostle Peter, in the crypt of St. Peter's.

Since his demise, the simple tomb has been visited by at least three million people, becoming, with the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, a fixture on the Roman tourist trail.

Books and movies detailing the life of the late pope have been released to coincide with the anniversary, including one book which recounts the recollections of those at the Vatican who were closest to him.

"Let Me Go to the Lord"—his last words, according to his personal doctor Renato Buzzonetti, is the title of a book co-authored by the octogenarian doctor, Dziwisz and Angelo Comastri, Vicar General of the Vatican City.

In the book, the doctor reveals that the Varican kept secret for five years news that the pope had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease-which he developed in 1991-even though the symptoms were visible to the world.

#### Faithful secretary

Dziwisz, the faithful secretary of four decades who was elevated to cardinal by Benedict, is living proof of John Paul II's enduring popularity.

The 66-year-old Krakow archbishop was by far the most popular of the 15 new cardinals in the festive aftermath of the consistory, when a room allocated to him at the Vatican to receive well-wishers was thronged to overflowing.

# US hospitals ...

peaked at 745 pounds. When her son was born three years ago, "I had to sit in the hospital bed the whole time—the hospital's rocker wouldn't fit my butt."

Today Henk helps Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis find better ways to deal with the growing number of very obese patients, an issue for many hospitals in the United States where obesity is a growing problem. Barnes-Jewish is replacing beds and wheelchairs with bigger models, widening doorways, buying larger CT scan machines, even replacing slippers and gowns.

Last year, patient care director Colleen Becker decided to check the numbers. She looked at a daily hospital census—about one-third of the 900 patients weighed 350 pounds (158 kilograms) or more.

Startled, Becker checked another date, then another. The numbers were consistent. On some days, half the patients were obese. Some weighed 500 pounds (225 kilograms) or more.

#### 'Bariatic care'

"We ran the data again to make sure we weren't hallucinating," Becker said. "We weren't. So we had to somehow figure out the appropriate supplies, equipment, training and care for the patients we're dealing with."

The answer was a "bariantic care team," which Henk serves on, to address the challenges posed by obese patients. Those challenges are many.

Hospitals around the nation are working with equipment suppliers to accommodate larger patients, said Elizabeth Lietz, a spokeswoman for the American Hospital Association. And it's not just for the patients.

ATF Healthcare, a union representing 70,000 nurses and other workers at hospitals in 18 states, last week called for new laws forcing hospitals to buy equipment such as portable hoists to prevent worker injuries.

A union commissioned survey of more than 900 nurses and X-ray technicians found the majority have chronic pain or have suffered injuries from lifting and moving patients.

#### Lift machines

At Barnes-Jewish, lift machines help some patients get in and out of bed. Chairs have been made stronger and wider. Lights have been added at floor level because the bodies of extremely obese people can cast a shadow that makes it hard to see the floor.

The hospital is replacing many of its beds-built to handle people weighing up to 350 pounds—with beds for 500-pound pa-

"Three-hundred-fifty pounds is nowhere near what we need for beds now," said Art Kidrow, a nurse manager at Barnes-Jewish. "We've had some 650-pounders up here."

Some wings of Barnes-Jewish are replacing 36-inch-wide doorways with those that are 48 or 52 inches (122 or 132 centimeters) wide. The bathrooms are being fitted with floor-mounted commodes that cannot be pulled out of the wall, and rooms reconfigured so patients can essentially get out of bed and step into the bathroom.

#### Bigger gowns

Gowns are bigger. Wheelchairs are wider, Even hospital-issued slippers come in extra-large sizes because the standard-issued

footies were cutting off circulation for some

issues extend beyond the patient's room. Operating tables have been widened because the girth of some patients was lapping over the table, in some cases all the way to the floor, Becker said. CT scan machines weren't wide enough. Syringes with the longest available needles -4 1/2 inches(11 43 centimeters)-could not penetrate the fat.

Along with doctors and murses, the hospital's 30-member barratric care team includes former patients like Healt and people from the hospital's engineering and housekeeping units.

Henk, 41, represents both patients and those who try to help the obese-she is program manager for Washington University's weight management program.

She's been heavy for as long as she can remember-she was in Weight Watchers by age 5. Everybody in my family is at least 100 pounds overweight," she said.

Gastric bypass surgery seven years ago helped her shed some weight, but she has dropped to 315 pounds (142 kilograms) mostly through better eating and exercise.

Still, she knows what larger people go through at the hospital.

#### Dignity for all

"I believe in dignity for whomever you are," Henk said. "It can be scary, too. If people are trying to lift you up and somebody doesn't have the strength, it's very scary."

Based on recommendations from the team, Barnes-Jewish has developed a protocol for lifting beavy patients.

The hospital is also working with suppliers. Manufacturers now offer more than 1,000 items specifically for obese patients, said Sandy Wise, of Novation LLC, a Texas-based company that provides contracting services between hospitals and manufacturers.

"it's been a trend probably for the last four or five years," Wise said. "Hospitals are continuing to see an increase in obese patients, and it affects every department. You have to think of the patient from head to toe, everything they do in the hospital until they walk out the door or they die."

In fact, Barnes-Jewish is striving to make even the end more dignified. Becker said the law requires a leak-proof body bag. Some patients were so large they wouldn't fit in them. The hospital is working with a vendor to develop a wider bag.

#### LOTTO RESULT

**SUERTRES** 

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# MPD's little big woman heads all-female SWAT team

Supt. Lilian Castillo fulfills childhood dream



A WOMAN ON THE SWAT TEAM?

There's more.

the Manila Police District's (MPD) elite all-female Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

SWAT team members are deployed to handle situations beyoud the scope of onduty policemen because of limitations in equipment or expertise.

"The special all-female SWAT team was formed last year because there are times when female police officers are needed to handle delicate sicuanons," Castilio said. For instance, she said,

ferred over men to handle women hostage situations to avoid accusations of sexual harassment.

To qualify, members of the allwomen SWAT team had to go through a tough regimen of obstacle courses and special exercises "to toughen their muscles" under Lt. Roger Lindevall, a former member of the Swedish Marines. The team was later deproyed to the front lines of the CDM unit at the height of the anti-administration rathes last October.

"The presence of the female poice officers somehow softened the image of our male counterparts who were accused of indiscriminately hurting militants and protesters during crowd control and dispersal operations," Castillo

High-ranking policewoman

One of the MPD's two highest ranking policewomen, the spunky Castillo, who holds a rank equivalent to that of a lieutenant colonel in the military service, also heads the MPD's Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) unit and the District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DHD) investigation

Not bed for someone who was

always positioned at the head of a line during school activities when she was growing up as a scrawny, pint-sized kid in Nueva Ecija.

"Although I had always dreamt Supt. Lilian Castillo is chief of of becoming a police official, I never expected to become one because of my physique," an amused Castido told the Inquiaea, refer-

ring to her height of

in her character to be dannied by obstacles. When the opportunity no lead the newly created female SWAT thoughts.

change into three different uniforms after her superiors requested her to head the SWAT team, the CDM unit and the DIID's monitoring group during a rally, all on the

#### Multitasking expert

Tve always been an expert at munitasking," said the police officiai who began her career on the force as a beat patrolwoman in 1986. After all, Castillo endured the rigors of traveling all the way to the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCR) in Manila from Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, where she was assigned as a rookte police officer, to complete her

ment was any less hectic. Before joining the Manila police force, Castillo served as aide de camp to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, both on land and under-

Castillo said her dedication to her work stemmed from a childhood dream to emulate ber policeman-father. "I wanted to become a policeman like him, but I did not want to end up in the same pit of disillusionment and frustra-

MPD'S LITTLE! A24



5'3" and small built. Luckily, it was not team presented itself, the 44-year-old police official agreed to the assignment without any second As chief of three vital units, Castillo recalled several in-

female SWAT members were pre- stances in which she had to same day.



Preparing you for the

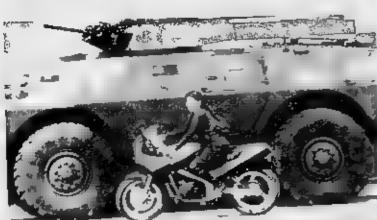
CASTILLO is one of the Manila Police's

two highest-ranking policewomen. RETZMOM

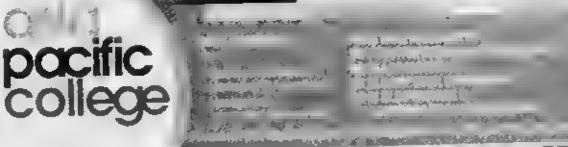
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CASTILLO once served as alde de camp to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, both on land and underwater. **JIEH ZAMDRA** 



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Work abroad

now, pay later

PLANNING TO WORK ABROAD but wondering how to pay your

fees? Residents in Rodriguez,

Rizal, can go to their municipal

Not that they will be given in-

stant cash. But the local govern-

ment is now willing to help them

get them a loan for their place-

There are many qualified

workers in our town but they

don't get a chance to work abroad

because they don't have enough money," Mayor Pedro Cuerpo told

But through his program called Work abroad now, Pay later," the

Montalban Overseas and Labor Employment Office of the munic-

ipality will help qualified workers get loans from formal lending institutions like the Philippine National Bank, with whom the local

government had already signed

"Many aspirants have been borrowing money from lenders

who charge steep interests, or

pawning their property. We want

to stop that," Cuerpo added in Fil-

The program, launched in Jan-

uary, has already benefited at

least 13 workers. Two of them left

earlier while 11 female workers

left for Taiwan yesterday morn-

ing to work in an electronic as-

SPD looking

program set

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ment fees.

the INOURER.

an agreement.



from right) with some of the children her foundationthe Philippine Christian Foundation Inc. helped put

# Sweet charity unearths treasures in Tondo dump UK-funded foundation helps poor Filipino children map out rosier future

By Tina G. Santos

DEEP IN THE HEART OF VITAS, Tondo, a woman with a heart of gold is helping children of garbage pickers or scavengers, as they are often called, make their dreams come true.

For Jane Walker, a British nafional who has been in the counture. try for nearly 10 years, the sight of children wandering around and collecting garbage to help their families earn a living instead of being in school touched

This prompted Walker to establish the Philippine Christian Foundation Inc. (PCFI), a nongovernment organization which aims to help disadvantaged children and their families look forward to a rosier future through various education projects.

In Tondo, PCFI has started a preschool in the Helping Foundstion Building at the Smokey Mountain Temporary Housing North Pier 18, a dilapidated structure where over 200 children, aged 8-16 years old, living on and around the dump, were being educated, fed and clothed.

Just recently, about 80 children in nursery and the kindergarten level graduated to the delight of their proud parents.

#### 'Incredibly bright'

"It is a huge achievement for these children and their families to complete one year education," Walker said "Many of them are incredibly bright. I believe we A CHILD in a depressed community receives medicine from a found treasures in the dump.

and they understand that education is important."

She added, "The waste-picking communities need help to survive and every child deserves the right to have an education, a hot meal everyday and the chance to make choices to change their own fu-

#### P100 yearly tuition

Parents only pay P100 a year for their kids' tuition.

The parents go on a payment plan because they can only afford to pay P10 a month. But we don't believe in doing everything for free. We believe that this is their project so we would like them to contribute to it in any way they can," she explained.

Walker said the parents also help out by cleaning and decorat-

They are the most amazing kids ing the school, doing kitchen duty, and assisting during field trips.

#### Life-changing visit

The 42-year-old Walker said she was inspired to start her charity work when she came to the country in 1996

She recalled that she found her "true calling" during a visit to a public cemetery in Navotas and Smokey Mountain in Tondo.

"I went to a dump and saw lots of children working in it. I went to the cemetery and found children living there so I promised that I would build a daycare center for the children," Walker said

She was as good as her word In 1998, Walker built and funded a small school in the Navotas public cemetery which was also home to 500 families who could barely make ends meet, much



THE PCFI also provides its beneficiaries with food, dothing and CONTRIBUTED PHOTO medicine.

less send their children to school. in 2003, she started the school in Smokey Mountain, Tondo.

#### Eager to learn

"Mingling with these children, was happy to find out that they were very keen and eager to learn. That gave me the push to pursue my plans for them," she told the INQUERER.

Aside from the children in Navotas and Tondo, the PCFI has also been providing education to underprivileged children in a dump in Baguio and Bacolod.

At present, Walker juggles her time between Manila and the United Kingdom where she holds fund-raising activities

"My dream is to build a school which could educate every child dump or cemeteries from jane@p-c-f.org

preschool to high school," said Walker, who intends to stay permanently in the Philippines with her 8-year-old son starting this

I see so much potential in these children and their families. I don't see them as scavengers, i see them as professional recyclists, I see them as the strength of the Pilipino people because they're hardworking, they make the best of bleak situations, and best of all, they do it with a smile. To me that is the strength of the Filipino and it is a great privilege to serve them in whichever way we can," Walker said.

These who wish to send donations may contact the PCFI at Midland Plaza 4th Floor, Unit 422, Adriatico Street in Ermita Manila, who is working or living in the or call (02) 3026410 or e-mail

forward to Holy Week

sembly plant.

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ALTHOUGH HE AND HIS MEN would be busy ensuring the safety of people who would be going home to the provinces during Holy Week, Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia believes the task would not be as difficult compared to last year.

Last year's Lenten season was stressful, Garcia told the INQUIRER, because the police were on their toes to prevent possible retaliatory attacks following the Bicutan

The March 15, 2004 incident resulted in the death of 22 suspected Ahu Sayyaf members, including the top three leaders of the bandit group, who were detained at the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

About 1,500 poncemen have already been deployed on the streets of southern Metro Manua to ensure peace and order and prevent terrorist elements from striking during the weeklong holiday, the police official said

The police will also be securing churches and other places of worship where thousands of Catholics are expected to gather to observe Holy Week

#### Car salesman loses SUV Gun in one hand, rosary in the other to thieves in parking lot By Joselyn R. Uy

#### By DJ Yap

A CAR SALESMAN LOST A SPORTS utility vehicle to car thieves at the parking lot of a mall in Quezon City on Friday.

Michael Ty, 29, a sales representative of Nissan North Edsa, parked a garnet Nissan Patrol at Ever Gotesco on Commonwealth Avenue to meet a chent at about 2 p.m., according to police.

came back, the SUV was already gone, according to investigator PO3 Diosdado Rocero of the Batasan Hills Police.

The SUV was a 2005 model with conduction sticker number LA6379, Ty told police. It was val-

ued at P2.556 million, be said

The case was turned over to the Quezon City's anti-car theft

Meanwhile, police recovered on Friday a stolen motorcycle that was used as a getaway vehicle in a robbery two days before.

A Honda XR 200 with plate number Pl-3128 turned up in front of 504 Culiat Compound, Tandang Sora, a day after it was When he and a companion reportedly used by a thief to rob an electronics store.

The motorcycle was earlier reported to have been used by the unidentified thief to rob Colortech Electronic Service along Regalado Street in Barangay Lagro on March 29.

AN 18-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS found dead inside his room in Taguig City before dawn yesterday. In his left hand, he held a rusary and crucifix. In the right, he held a gun.

Police said Jaime Orsenado Jr.,

CONTRIBUTED PICETO

a juntor nursing student of the knocked on his door several times resident of R. Papa Avenue, AFPO-VAI in Barangay Western Bicutan,

probably committed suicide. Initial investigation said Orsebrother-in-law, Michael Cordova, due to "family problems."

San Juan de Dios College and a at about 4:45 a.m. Cordova forced the door open and found Orsenado with a gunshot wound in the head. His girlfriend, Kathlyn Garcia, told the police that the victim nado did not answer when his had been depressed for months

# welcomes summer with monofin swimming

THIS SEASON OF SUN, SEA AND sand, learn how to swim like "Dyesebal."

Summer has officially begun in the country with the introduction of monofin swimming, a technique that resembles the way mythical mermaids move in the water.

In the hope of developing tached to their feet. enough talent to compete internationally, Quezon City has organized the first ever monofin swimmer resembles a douphinswimming program for the youth in the Philippines, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Monofin swimmers use a single-bladed swimfin made of glass fiber or carbon fiber that is at-

Because of the tail-like appearance of the swimfin, a monofin or a mermaid.

The training of youngsters, aged between 10 and 18, in monofin swimming will begin today at the Amoranto Sports Complex, said Quezon City adminis-

trator Pacquito Ochoa Jr.

The city tied up with Dive Republic, a private training company for divers and swimmers, for the project in line with Quezon City's Youth and Sports Development program.

At the launch last Friday, Ochoa invited the youth to take part in the swimming program.

# MPD's little big woman heads all female SWAT team

#### From page A23

tion," she said.

Castillo, the eldest of five girls, recalled that her father Eduardo, a former barangay captain from Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, was appointed by the mayor as a policeman in the early 1970s.

The eider Castillo, however, did not make it to the position of police officer because he was not able to get a college education.

I witnessed my father being humiliated by the other policemen who looked down on him," Castillo said.

She also remembered that her dad was always absent whenever she received an award given for outstanding grades in school. "He

wanted to pin on our medals and ribbons, but he could not because he had to stay behind to follow some police official's orders."

#### Followed in father's footsteps

Despite her father's unhappy experiences in the workplace, Castillo said she was inspired to follow in his footsteps—albeit in a different direction.

"I promised myself that I would be somebody someday, that I would return to my town and redeem my father's sense of dignity and honor," she said.

The police official proved to be an accurate prophet. The passing years saw her steady rise from a beat patrolwoman to police in-

aide de camp when she was vice president.

Castillo's assignments took her to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija; Angeles City, Pampanga; and Camp Crame in Quezon City, as an ourstanding police officer.

Her growing responsibilities, however, did not prevent her from undergoing various training programs and seminars to improve her skills.

#### Scuba diving, motorcycle riding

"I even trained in motorcycle riding and scuba diving," Castillo sald. "I wanted to explore different fields, something my father the PSG last year, but I explained

spector, and then as Ms Arroyo's would have done if he had been to the President that it was part of given the chance."

Her training came in handy when she was assigned as a member of the Presidential Security Group in 2001.

"My skills earned me a place in where she earned various awards President Macapagal-Arroyo's speed boat whenever she scuba dived," Castillo proudly said. "I was the only PSG member who had the privilege of guiding ber underwater, the policewoman

> Castillo was also assigned to head the PSG motorcycle team and motor pool unit, where she was responsible for maintaining the First Pamily's vehicles.

"I had a heavy heart when I left

my career advancement and growth as a person," she said.

#### Self-improvement

According to Castillo, she has learned a very valuable lesson from her experiences: That improving one's self is something you have to do on your own.

Even when I cannot be the best in a particular field, I try hard to be among the best by continuously learning and not giving up on

my goals," the police official said. From a remote, mountain town to the seat of the most powerful family in the country, to the home of Manila's Finest, Castillo has truly made good on her childhood



AS HEAD of the Manila Police's Civil Disturbance Management Unit, Castillo was at the frontline of riot policemen tasked to guard against unruly protestors at the height of antigovernment rallies ARH ZAMORA last year.

E-mail: pr\_global\_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

**Fext us your feedback:** go name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filiplans overseas tolling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction siles and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a batter life for their families. These are their stories.

Daughter proud of OFW parents, speaks 4 languages

By Christian V. Esquerra

THE PERPETUALLY ANI- , MATED CLASS settled down as soon as the girl with streaks of magenta in her hair walked up front.

Word was that this girl, their classmate Jan Yumul got a British accent. They were all eager to hear her do a mock newscast à In CNN or BBC.

Jan, 19, gamely cleared her throat then began reading a made-up story on an abducted Pilipino-American student in clear, effortless, and unmistakably Brit diction.

A sophomore journalism student at the University of Santo Tomas, Jan actually speaks four languages, and British English is just one of them.

She's also fluent in French and has a competent grasp of Cantonese, Tagaiog, and Waray, her parents' native tongue.

A song-writer, drummer, keyboard player, and vocalist-she's also known for all these, a musti-faceted musician.

But lest anyone forget, she's more importantly the daughter of two hardworking OFW parents, she would often remind friends.

"That's who I am and I always tell people that," she says in an interview with the In-QUINER.

Jan brims with pride whenever her parents, both of them working in Hong Kong, crop up in a conversation. Their struggle in the former British colony defined her character, she would say.

#### Musician father

Hard times sent her father Antonio pack-Leyte for a musicien's job in Hong Kong in 1987. His job at a local band in Tacloban had offered no bright hopes for his newborn Jan and wife Siony

Antomo, 51, was hired as a keyboardist at an all-Filipino band playing country music at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

The following year, he took his wife and daughter to live with him. They settled at a 15-room tenement they shared with other OFWs working in the hotel at Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui District in Kowloon.

Siony soon found a job as a waitress at a Korean restaurant. That, too, kept her away most of the time like her husband.

Jan grew up often in the company of Filipino neighbors next door. By the time she

(US dollars, in millions)

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**QFW Remittances** 

USA

Kuly

Japan

Saudi Arabin

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Dobat (UAE)

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United Kidodos

was old enough for school, she knew she was getting parallel lessons in real life.

"I grew up with the image of both of my parents always working," she recalls. "While they were out, I was being 'educated' in a way that we don't usually find in

#### A compatriot in need

Jan, for instance, learned that survival in ing from their small house in Alang-Alang, "a far-off place like Hong Kong depended heavily on hard work. Surrender to laziness or recidessness and you'll end up hungry

She learned, too, that Pinoys would never abandon a compatriot especially in times

of need. One time, she remembered her family having almost nothing for dinner it was difficult to conceal since they shared a common kitchen with other families. The others quickly realized it and sent a plate or two.

That was how it worked there—people helped other people even if they didn't have enough for themselves too," Jan says.

It wasn't easy to stay affoat even if her father's job offered roughly HK\$7,000 monthly. Besides, he had to work from 9

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p.m. to 3 a.m. for 10 years straight, without a single day off.

Jan says her father would have preferred to stay on had not the 1997 Asian financial crisis driven him out of his hotel job. The band switched to Latino music, hoping a major musical shift might help extend its stint at the hotel's "Bar City."

#### Chicken dinner

It still didn't and he went jobiess for about a year. By that time, the couple had two other children, Raymarc John and Florenz Anthony, and Jan was nearing the end of primary school.

Wife Siony had to take another job, alternating in a restaurant and a hoter bar.

How the family survived the crisis Jan would never forget. She recalls her mother buying a small pack of "chicken legs" and make it good for a week's meal. Siony would chop a small part in even smaller pieces then mot them up with "miswa."

Boiled monggo beans was a common, though not exactly delectable, alternative for a yiand. "It went on for about two years," Jan says.

A hardworking father with no job and a devoted mother forced to work even harder both left a deep unpression in their daughter. Soon she began asking why many of their compatriots in Hong Kong weren't accorded the respect they deserved.

In a multi-cultural place like Hong Kong, she laments that Pinoys are all "mere" domestic helpers: Never mind if maids, they, too, earn a decent living.

#### Trash bins for Filipinos

In a way, they're also victim of their own folly, she says. Trash bins in Hong Kong, for example, carry reminders in Tagalog. It means only that Filipinos often need to be

reminded Jan is convinced respect won't offer itself especially in a foreign land. But she earned it quite naturally.

While her parents were preoccupied back-breaking jobs, she busied herself with her schooling. It wasn't difficult to stand out

for someone as talented as she was.

At the Sir Ellis Kadoone Secondary School in West Kowloon, Jan made a name as drummer, keyboardist, and vocalist of an amateur, all girls and all-Filipino band called "The Disciples." She also had a shift in broadcasting at a Catholic radio pro-

They were taught French in school. When Hong Kong was hit by Severe

Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003, Jan and her bandmates came up with a song on the medical tragedy, essentially reviving hope amid a dejected community

The band got a major break later that year when it was invited to perform during the month-long Temple Street Pestiva., a local government project to promote tourism.

#### Japanese fan

During break at one gig, a Japanese lady approached the group and asked, "How come you Filipinos are so good in

Jan smiled. Respect had been earned. She went back to the Philippines two years ago to finish coalege here. It was far more expensive in Hong Kong than in Manila and besides, she want-

ed to experience home.

The polluted streets of Manila weren't exactly the ideal place for a person like Jan who had spent all her life abroad. But she's coping and somehow learning to love it.

THE FAMILY that

stays together: Jan

with (from left)

Siony, musician

father Antonio,

SONGS FOR

SARS: Jan (left)

Dumpit stage a

concert at the

height of the

SARS crists

with friend Charity

and brothers

Florenz and

Reyman in

Hong Kong

waitress mom

"At first I was somehow culture shocked because in Hong Kong, people were so parucular about rules. Here, it seemed people were getting away with anything," she

#### To be a waitress

"One thing I learned from our life there is that I can find myself in any situation and I will survive."

Next week, Jan will fly back to Hong Kong for something she had long wanted to do. She'll spend the rest of her summer vacation working probably as a waitress like what her mother used to

"My mom tells me to just finish my studies, it win be my greatest gift to them," she says, noting that Stony now manages a Mexican restaurant while her father's a building adminis-

"But I feel obliged to work and I like it too. When I look at my family, I really want to help them in any way I can."

# SOURCES, BANGKO SENTRAL NG MLIMMAS, TECHNISTOCIC, CIA WORLD FACTIOOK When in trouble abroad, help is a text away 24/7

#### By Julie M. Aurelia

FOR MALTREATED PINOY WORKERS,

help is just a text away 24/7 The Center for M.grant Advocacy (CMA) has come up with a text-based mechanism for requests for help and reports about distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)

The SOS Short Messaging System (SOS SMS) was conceptualized and developed by migrant workers in the Middle East who wanted a quicker response to distress calls from OFWs.

The CMA promotes the rights of OFWs and their families through policy advocacy, information dissemination, networking and direct assistance.

Eliene Sana, CMA executive director, told the Inquiren that the idea for SOS SMS came up during a series of abductions involving Pilipino workers in the Middle East.

\*SOS SMS offers a way to report quickly cases of discressed OFWS ... Even if an OFW is in fail, as long as he has access to a cell phone, he can ask for help or intervention from the government," she said in a

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9,681 68

10,689.00

997 31

4,904,30

3,289.52

33,307 75

2,132 44

153 23

308.50

391 12

282.60

25 35

\$2.22

77 57

(various currencies" in millions)

An OFW must key in SOS <space> <sender's name & message> and send to +6392090FWSOS or +63920963967 The messages are received by a central computer and forwarded to the CMA and the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (Oumwa) and the Overseas Workers Weifare Administration (Owwa).

#### IT engineers

Pilipino IT engineers in the Middle East developed the system in 2005.

Sana said the system could also be used to conduct polls or surveys, as well as voluntary registration of undocumented

She added, "We limit our intervention to referral of the case. We can't take charge of the case," Reports are referred to the Oumwa or the Owwa for action

When it gets a SOS message, CMA aska the OPW to contact the Philippine Embassy or labor office in the country where he/she resides. At the same time, it alons the goverrument office.

Pedro Chan, Ournwa executive director, said he forwarded cases of distressed OFWs to case officers at the DFA Action Center. Case officers would contact the OFW to verify the report.

Most cases, Chan added, were from OFWs in Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Qatar, Bahram, Kuwait and Israel. Complaints range from maltreatment, sexual abuse, nonpayment of wages, or working without a permit Sana noted most ones for help were

from men, as they usually had more access to cell phones.

In Saud. Arabia, the CMA formed the Pusong Mamon Task Force, a team of OFWs that provide immediate assistance to fellow migrant workers. Sana said Pusong Mamon members were briefed on how to be sensitive and address the plight of workers.

"The point is to be able to give immediate assistance, Not all cases are immediately resolved, especially (those) of OPWs who are detained or jailed," she told the INQUIR-

Sana said SOS SMS would not only address calls for help. The system allowed CMA to document, index, classify and analyze reported cases of distress in terms of work category, geographical location, gender, forms of abuse and work place, she

"In terms of advocacy, SOS SMS gives you a picture of what the problems of the migrants are. Do we have gaps in terms of policies, human resources or implementabon? We can see that in the increase of the number of cases reported," she said.

#### Experimental stage

The CMA, however, still has to finalize a memorandum of agreement with the Oumwa and Owwn. But Chan said the lack of a MOA did not affect the amplementation

He added that the SOS SMS was still in the experimental stage and the Oumwa and CMA were ironing the kinks, like identifying omergency cases as when OFWs got involved in accidents or were jaired.

Sana said CMA would eventually hand over implementation of SOS SMS to the government. She said the group was also amenable to sharing the concept of SOS SMS with migrants of different nationali-

#### Positive feedback

"It is a good project. I think it's 50 percent successful so far. But some routine cas; es we receive are like the ones we receive at the Action Center," Chan said

Sana said the SOS SMS project had its share of technical glitches, spam and fake distress casts from pranksters. But they also received positive feedback from OFWs

"Some people text us to say this is really a good project. It's good that they apprecaate it," Sana said. "It helps them a lot. Even if (a concrete solution is not achieved immediately), they (the OFWs) know their woes are being listened to."

For inquiries, please visit the Center for Advocacy Migrant http://www.pinoy-abroad.net, or call their office at 9205003.

## **GLOBAL**Pinoy

# Hundred Islands lures balikbayans

By Melody Aligada Contributor

ALAMINOS CITY—OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers (OPWs), mostly from the land of Uncle Sam and many of them professionals, returned to their native soil on a mis-

The over 300 OFWs and their families revisited their once sleepy hometown of Alammos in Pangasinan. They came from California, United States; and Canada, as well as from Europe for a grand alumni homecoming of the Alaminos National High School or ANHS (formerly Alaminos High School)) and the celebration of the feast of the city's patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker last March 19

The reunion, dubbed Hundred Islands Global Pinoy Homecoming 2006, was initiated by Mayor Hernani Braganza.

The OFWs hoped to share their blessings with the students of the ANHS. They also wanted to help develop the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) as an ecotourism destination.

Living legacy

"We wanted to leave a living legacy so that other Alaminians may follow suit and contribute in the continuing progress of the Hundred Islands and the whole province of Pangasinan," said members of the Alaminos City Association of San Diego County (ACASDC), Alaminos High School Alumni Association International (AHSAAI) and Alaminos, Pangasinan Association of Southern California (APAS-

They said they learned of the homecoming and fiests from the web site of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which featured the rebuth of the islands last year

Braganza said, "We dedicate this fiesta not only to our balikbayan from Europe and Northern America, but also to Alaminians outside the Pangasinan province."

Dr. Jimmy Boton, concurrent president of ACASDC and AHSAAI, vowed the support of the organizations' members for their alma mater and kababayan.



ALAMINOS Mayor Nani Braganza (second from right) receive members of the Alaminos City Association of San Diego County, Alaminos High School Alumni Association International and Alaminos, Pangasinan Association of Southern California, all wanting to help develop the Hundred Islands as an eco-tourism destination. BUY ZAMBRANOIPDI NORTHERN LEZON BUREAU

He said he was planning to invest in residents. janitorial and security services, agribusiness and the construction of a multimillion peso high-rise building for commetcial and residential purposes in Barangay Lucap to help the city generate more revenues and create jobs.

"I have a passion to help and change people. This prompted me to gather the alumni in the US and initiate helping our alma mater in 1994," he said.

ACASD and AHSAAI had donated since 1998 books and other reading materials, computers, printers, fax machines, garden tools and equipment, cash incentives and scholarship grants to graduating class valedictorians and salutatorians; and US\$4,000 for chairs.

The associations also conducted medical and eye care missions for Alaminos

Boton, who is also president of the San Diego Executive Lions Club, graduated from the Alaminos High School in 1959 and took up animal husbandry at Araneta University. He got a master's degree in agriculture (animal breeding) and a doctorate in animal science.

He was director of the Manila Zoo from 1986 to 1992 and dean of the Department of Animal Science at the Araneta University before migrating to California in

#### Hard work

Life was not easy at first. White collar job were hard to come by. Swallowing his pride, he worked as a bus boy and nursing aide at the Demington Nursing Home for the elderly. He also worked in a post office to support his wife Corazon, and five children, including an adopted daughter.

Hard work eventually paid off. He was able to set up a small business, the Quikling janitorial services. The posh Ayala Heights Subdivision near the Capitol Golf Club in Tandang Sora, Quezon City is now home to Boton's family in Metro Manila.

"I don't intend to stay in the US. I encourage our kababayan to come home and see what they can do for Alaminos and the country," he said.

"Though I seldom come home, I know what's going on in Alaminos, which has grown from a town into a city. It has unproved a loc. The place is clean and the people are more disciplined," Boton said.

Registered nurse Purificacion Navarro, 59, spent 33 years working at Scripps Mercy Hospital, also in San Diego.

"I am an active member of the alumni association that continues to provide what the school children need. We will

money once we go back to the States for the procurement of more chairs for these children," she said.

The 1963 graduate of the high school, married a Filipino-born US Navy serviceman in 1973.

Navarro, who said, she still spoke her native tongue and ate pmakbet, said she had not been home for 33 years.

Gloria Rabago-Williams felt blessed she had a high paying job as a registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Sacramento, California and a close-knut family of renewed Chris-

Do you know that a nurse (in the US) receives US\$50 per hour?" she asked.

She finished high school in 1966, though she had to stop for a year due to financial difficulties.

"I remember the days when I had to feed the chickens at 4 a.m. and plant tomato seeds. I (could not play) as a young kid because I had to work hard to help the family," she said.

At 13, she started dreaming of becoming a nurse someday. But poverty compelled her to take up education. A brother with the Philippine Navy spent for her studies at the Northwest Education Institution in Dagupan City. But she was not meant for teaching.

Then luck knocked on her door in 1974. A friend gave her an application form for a nursing scholarship in Scot-

"I was alone, lonely and very homesick. I was not eating, nor sleeping. Being away from home was very hard...there were only two Filipinos there," she said.

She was, however, determined to pursue her goal.

She flunked the nursing board examination the first time but passed the sec-

In 1978, she went to London to work as a full-time nurse. Two years later, she transferred to the US, where he met husband Douglas Williams, an employee of the state's Franchise Tax Board.

SEX AT SEA

# Not all seamen want a woman in every port

#### By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

HE WORKED AS A COOK IN INTERNAfioual ocean vessels for 54 Anatan, 55, swore that in all those years, he remained faithful to his wife.

True or not, Anatan's case is highly atypicar. Sex-where to find it, how to get it-is a favorite topic among Filipino seamen who bask in their reputation as charming Lotharins who can have a woman in every port.

In fact, it was this prospect and that of traveling the world while earning dollars that enticed Gregory Cagod, 35, to abandon the gold mines in Davao and pursue a threeyear maritime course. For 10 years, Cagod was among the country's more than 300,000 seafarers abroad who sent at least US\$1.5 billion in yearly rematances.

Still single

Armed with anticipation and a keen sense of adventure, Cagod was single then and had no wedding vows to stop him from living it up during shore leave. There's just too much pressure from working enboard a ship, he said. "Wala, massira ang ulo mo pag di ka lumabas. You see the same faces everyday for 11 months, your bosses yell at you all the time, you miss your family... you need an outlet to survive."

For seafarers, that means stepping out and drinking in a ber, watching a girlie show and having sex.

It didn't help that Filipino sailors were easily the most popular with the girls compared to seamen of other nationalities, observed Fred Fuentes, 56, who'd rather use an alias when talking about his sex life in the open seas. "Filipino men are known to be galante, and malambing," Puentes said.

The ship's cook was the women's favorite target, said Fuentes who worked as one for 24 years. "Howak kast niya ang sus sa langit," he said, referring to the cook's open access to the food items in the stup. "He can give the women any food they want from the larder and they know it, too."

The risks in having indiscriminate sex was farthest from their mind, said Cagod.

#### STDs, HIVs

Lectures on sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV-AIDS prevention were haruly given in most pre-departure orientation seminars (PDOS).

"It really depends on your manning agency. Some arrange such seminars," said Fuentes who attended one before boarding

Anatan observed that, except for the very general "Mogtraboho kayo nang husto, magungut so babae," most PDOS offered little by way of STD prevention.

Most men got their information from colleagues, while others read brochures distributed by non-government organizations



SEAFARERS Fred Fuentes, Gerry Cagod and Jun Aratan recall their life onboard international shipping vessels

(NGOs) among sailors on shore leave, said AIDS, can be totally (without symptoms) for

But the seminar and brochures were no guarantee the men would practice safe sex, Cagod added. "When the beer does its work, when the teasing begins and the girls start gering amorous, everything files out the window. Nakakolimutan na lahat. Having sex becomes the main concern. After all, we've been working really hard, we're away from our loved ones, nagsasakripuyo kanu nong husto. We feel we're entitled to some

Having fun, infection

When the inevitable happens and the men suspect they may have contracted a STD, they turn to each other. "We cannot tell the captain lest we be pulled out and lose our jobs," said Cagod.

Interjected Anatan: "And you only tell your dose friends kasi kakantyawan ka ng iba." What the infected man would do was buy antibiotics or penicillin on the sty and go on self-medication, said Cagod. "There are no supplies on the ship because we're not supposed to have STD. It's a well-guarded

Despite the lack of information, however, Fuentes said he knew when a woman was "high-risk" and could tell if she had STD. "First, I look at her genitals. You can tell if they're healthy or if they stink. Then if it feels very hot inside, then she's infected."

#### Scent of a woman

Cagod agreed. "Yes, they say that if a woman smells and she feels very hot, then she must have STD, After all, she's bound to be leverish when she has infection."

Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, chair of the board of LIKHAAN, a women's health and reproductive rights NGO, clarified however, "Sores and a foul discharge are legitimate signs of possible infection or STD, but not all STDs (show symptoms). A lot, like HTV-

years so there's no way of telling."

The basic rule, she said, was to practice safe sex. "The proper use of condom-how to put it on, when to use it is important.

Certain situations and positions make people more vulnerable to STDs, so seafarers must be aware of these and how condoms can help."

Among themselves, and in the boring confines of an 11-month contract, the men trade information on their sex needs as well.

#### Seaman's toys, tools

Said Cagod: "In West Africa, our ship would always get swamped by hawkers selfing us some kind of dried testicle in a bottle that's supposed to make us harder and longer. It cost US\$20 and is supposed to be the genitals of a crocodile, or is it a horse?" He bought one, he said, but was too afraid to try it. "The other guys kept egging me to buy it, but nobody could tell me if it worked."

Not that they talked about sex all the time, Puentes said, "but when it's late at night and there's no more program on TV we watch X-rated films and that's when we talk about women."

It's mostly because they missed their wives, Cagod said. "It's very clear to us that the women we meet during shore leave are there strictly for sex. We're not about to have relationships with them out of deference to our families back home."

It was this deference and the thought of hurting their wives that prevented seafarers from discussing protective measures ansing from their extramarkal activities with their lifetime partners, said Puentes. Added Anatan: "I tell my friends, (but) never imply to my wife that I stray, even in jest. I don't even want her to think about such things and put our relationship in peril."

Most seafarers, said Puentes, didn't offer to wear condoms to protect their wives from STD and HIV-AIDS when they got home. "To

do so would be to stir up suspicions that I've had sex with other women, and I don't want

#### Condorn, guilt, pleasures

to risk that."

Such residence about using condoms and discussing risk-prevention could account for the high percentage of seamen being infected with HIV/AIDS. According to the HIV/AIDS Registry of the National Epidemiology Center of the Health Department, 805 or 34 percent of the 2,373 HIV positive cases are overseas Pilipino workers. Of the infected OFWs, 35 percent are seafarers.

Despite the high-risk behavior of their husbands, wives of seafarers also have huge misgivings about bringing up the subject of condoms, according to Dr. Maria Elena E Borromeo, UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) country coordinator. "They don't want their husbands to think they don't trust them so they'd rather keep quiet and hope they won't get infected."

The fact that women were dependent on their husbands also prevented them from speaking up, Borromeo added. Guilt also came into the picture. "The wives say, but our men have sacrificed a lot, surely they deserve sex the way they want it."

Certainly, women needed more awareness-raising to improve their negotiation skills on condom use, the doctor added. "But it takes a certain level of manurity and open communications for the women to feel empowered enough to claim their right to protection."

Dr. Estrada-Claudio zeroed in on the men, however, "It is more a matter of cultivating among senfarers the right attitude towards condom. Let's not go anymore into whether they're being suspected as having had sex with other women, or they're entided to sex whichever way because they've carried it. Instead, look at what all that inconvenience, the diminished picasure from using condoms, the slight to the ego, is

health, safety and life of your wife and family are at stake. Isn't that worth something?" Most seamen's wives, like Rita Ogbunar,

worth. Ano ang katumbas? Buhayi The

53, whose husband Tony used to be a captain, however knew the initiative must come from them. "I made sure we communicated regularly and wrote letters weekly so his thoughts would always be on the family," she said. She suggested condom use once, she admitted, but her husband did not receive it well.

After that, she learned to devise ways to protect herself. "I used the usual ways: douching, regular medical check-

But she was luckier than most wives, acknowledged Ogbinar who used to be active in the Seamen's Wives Association of the Phils. (SWAPI). "My husband came from a good school and a good family so I know he's very disciplined and has self-control when it comes to those situations. He's also very religious. Matipid din yan, So I'm not too worried. He's not about to blow his savings on temporary pleasures."

In the meantime, she added, the women could turn to some religious groups conducting awareness seminars on HIV-AIDS. "Caritas does it for the wives and the Aposdeship of the Sea (AOS) does it with students from maritime schools. Abroad, the AOS meets seafarers as they leave the ship and offers them the services of a seaman's

Such efforts were commendable, Cagod said, because the NGOs went where seafarers actually were.

#### Phones and Bibles

And please, said Anatan, "make sure there's a phone around that we can use to call our families." Keeping in touch with one's family, he added, was the best way to keep away from temptation. "I can honestly say that I've never had another woman while onboard a vessel," the former entrepreneur said. As a Christian, he turned to the Bible to forget or ignore his physical needs when he couldn't be with his wife, he

Fuentes, who had worked as a factory worker, a security guard and a hotel cook before boarding a ship, had another strategy: T always made sure that I only had enough money for a round of drinks when I leave the ship. That way, no amount of amorous advances can pry me off my seat. Baka mapaliya lang ako, eh."

Cagod said he let go of other tempting occasions as well. "The best route to sexual abstinence is a family project," he said, "When senfarers are building a house back home, or spending a lot for school or for someone sick, pag may pinag-apunan sila, they learn self-control. Whatever else you say, the family always comes first."

## The WORLD

# Chirac to sign job law, but offers compromise

PARIS-FRENCH PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac announced on Friday he would sign a controversial youth job law despite weeks of protests, but promised it would be amended right away to weaken two of its most disputed reforms.

Trade union and student leaders promptly rejected his proposas as insufficient and vowed to press on with their protests, including a nationwide action day next Tuesday.

Even before he spoke, students

gathered in Paris and other main cities to continue protests against the First Job Contract (CPE), which will let employers fire workers under 26 without cause during their first two years on the

"It is time to defuse the situation," Chirac said in the televised speech, in which he said he understood the concerns of youths who could not find jobs. Youth unemployment is running at 22 percent, high above France's 9.6 percent

national average.

His long-awaited speech seemed aimed at striking a balance between Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, who wanted the law applied promptly and in full, and mubons of protesters who demand it be scrapped before any compromise could be dis-

He said he would sign the law passed to shorten the permitted trial period to one from two years

reason for any dismissal.

Villepun pushed the law through parliament last month, arguing France must reform its rigid abor code quickly to fight youth unemployment. Students and workers reacted with the biggest protests seen here in

Jean-Claude Mailly, head of the but then have amendments Force Ouvriere union, called Churac's proposals "incomprehensible and unacceptable." Bernard

CGT union said: "We stick to the call for mobilization now more than evez"

"We were waiting for the president to listen to the message that young people and workers have been sending for more than two months and to withdraw the CPE First Job Contract," said Bruno Juliand, president of student body

"And what does he tell us? He lays out the same arguments that

and require employers to give a Thibault of the procommunist we have heard for weeks. We are not more convinced this evening."

> BMP Paribas senior economist Dominique Barbet also saw the unrest continuing. The law has been largely emptied of content but the trade unions, students and opposition just refuse the law altogether so the protests are likely to

In his speech, Chirac said he had heard "the womes that many youths and their parents express" and wanted to respond. Reuters

# Bush offers quake aid, but warns Iran on nuke bid



AN IRANIAN woman cries over the body of her son killed in an earthquake that devastated the village of Khalegh Ali, 500 km southwest of Tehran, Iran, March 31. The quake left at least 70 people dead.

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has offered aid to Iran after a devastating earthquake but also kept up pressure over Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

President George W. Bush made a point of offering sympathy and assistance while at a North American summa in Mexico Friday.

"We obviously have differences with the Iranian government but we do care about the suffering of Iranian people," he said.

The powerful earthquake struck western Iran, leaving at least 70 dead and 1,265 injured. The area of Brujerd was hit hardest. The earthquake left at least 45 people dead there and another 1,025 people injured.

The United Nations said Friday it was rushing a team of experts to assess damage. Washington offered shelter for 100,000 people.

The state department said Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns telephoned fran's ambassador to the United Nations to offer assistance, a rare direct contact between the two countries that have had no diplomatic relations for more than two decades.

"Nick offered the condolences of the US government to the people of fran, the government of fran for the loss of lives and on behalf of the US government, offered our assistance to the families of the victims," state department deputy spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters.

The aid would include blankets, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, water units and temporary shelters for 100,000 people as well as an intermediate grant of 50,000 dollars for nongovernmental organizations, Ereli said.

fran's ambassador to the UN. Javad Zarif, indicated he would consult with his government before responding, the spokesperson said.

sent assistance when an even more lethal quake struck the southern Iranian town of Bam. Tehran refused an offer of aid last year after another earthquake.

The White House also issued a statement from Bush and his wife, Laura, about the quake. "Our thoughts and prayers are with families and individuals who have lost loved ones," they said.

But Bush also renewed US condemnation of the Iranian government's nuclear program which Washington and its allies believe hides an attempt to develop an atomic bomb.

The US leader reaffirmed Washington's view that if Iran gets a nuclear weapon it would be "a serious threat to world security" and urged Tehran to heed international warnings or risk further isolation.

There is common agreement that the Iranians should not have a nuclear weapon, the capacity to make a nuclear weapon or the knowledge as to how to make a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

"If they want to participate in the international order of things, if they don't want to isolate themselves, they must listen very carefully to what we're saying with unified voice," he said.

The United States, Russia, China, Britain, Prance and Germany have been holding talks this week on what action to take if Iran ignores a UN Security Council statement issued Wednesday calling on it to halt wamium enrichment in 30 days. AFP

## First Brazil astronaut enters ISS

In 2003, the US government MOSCOW-THREE ASTRONAUTS including the first Brazilian in space entered the International Space Station Saturday after their Soyuz rock-; et docked with the ISS, according to images from the Russian control

The Soyuz TMA-8 carrying Brazilian Marco Pontes, Russian, cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams. docked automatically with the ISS at 0419 GMT, the control center's spokesperson Valery Lindin said.

Pontes was the first of three to enter the ISS, after the door was opened at 0559 GMT, followed by Vinogradov and Williams.

Traditionally it is the head of mission, in this case Vinogradov. who enters first.

The Brazilian carried his country's flag and smiled broadly as he joined American MacArthur and Russia's Valery Tokarey, who have been on the ISS since October 2005.

The new crew members blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Thursday.

Pontes, a 43-year-old Brazilian air force officer, returns to Earth on April 9, while Vinogradov and Williams are set to spend six months on the ISS, the only space station operating since the closure of Russia's Mir orbiter in 2001

They will prepare for the arrival of a US space shuttle carrying Germany's Thomas Reiter, who will be the first European to make an extended stay on the ISS.

# Japan launches digital TV on cell phones Thailand set for vote

TOKYO—JAPAN ON SATURDAY began to watch digital television broadcasts on mobile telephones, in a highly anticipated service that could lead to a new genre of TV programs.

Japan is a frontrunner in the new technology, popularly known as "One Seg," after "One Segment," although South Korea has offered the service since the end of last year

Handsets have been on the market in Japan for several weeks that are equipped with the service, which can also broadcast programs onto taptop computers, high-end video game machines and other terminals.

The service will be free for now and programming will be the same as on home televisions as mobile operators examine whether One Seg will prove to be popular.

"in the short-term, digital terrestrial broadcasting on mobiles with the same programming as normal televisions will be of little interest for us," Masao Nakamura, CEO of Japan's top mobile operator NTT DoCoMo, said recently.

"But we are getting ready by preparing new specific content for the service that could come into

use later when new channels are available," he said.

Mobile operators have lined up agreements with television networks to develop the service.

NTT DoCoMo has ned up with Nippon Television and Fun Television. DoCoMo's main rival, KDDI, has forged a partnership with TV

Subscribers will be able to watch up to nearly three hours of uninterrupted television with a normal cell phone battery, as opposed to about an hour for current analog broadcasts which require more power.

"On a technical level, the service functions well. The image is of quality," said Pierre good Mustiere, a specialist at the consultancy JETEX, or the Japan International Technology and Strategy

But mobile operators risk losing out if subscribers turn to One Seg instead of pay-to-use Internet on their cell phones, unless the television service cashes in on interacrive features such as links to online

"Nobody knows for now how to measure the value of interactive features," Mustiere said.

# amid opposition boycott

the polls Sunday in an election called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra as a referendum on his leadership, but an opposition boycott has reduced the vote to a one horse race.

Some 45 million people are eligible to cast their votes in the poll, which Thaksin called three years early in a bid to end weeks of mass street railies set off by allegations that he abused his office for personal gain.

Polling stations are due to open at 8 a.m. and counting will start after the polls close seven hours later. Provisional results are expected to trickle in throughout Sunday night.

But protesters have vowed to continue demonstrating for Thaksin to quit long after the ballots have been counted, angry over a controversial share deal that saw his family make \$1.9 billion tax

In the absence of any opposition candidates, the biggest challenge to Thaksin in Sunday's vote is the "no vote" opnon that could be exercised in Bangkok and the trou-

BANGKOK-THAILAND GOES TO bled south, where anger towards the premier is most Serce.

Thaksin has pledged not to take office if he wins less than 50 percent of the vote, and his crines have called for voters to tick the abstention box in a show of no confidence. saving this could deny

But Surrat Choonhakai, an associate professor in pubadministration Bangkok's Mahidol University, downplayed the impact of the "no vote" option, saying Thaksin's support remained strong in the country's north and centre.

Another analyst said few people were likely to exercise the "no vote" and that THAKSIN relaxing ahead of a Thaksin's opponents would most likely just stay away from the polls.

"It takes a lot to go out and vote for no one," said Thitman Pongsudhirak, professor of political science at Chualongkorn University in Bangkok.



general election on Sunday. - A

According to Sirirat, a landslide victory would be the best way to end the political crisis, saying a marginal victory would further fuel anti-Thaksin protests.

#### Long mobile phone use raises brain tumor risk

STOCKHOLM-THE USE OF search from around the world, mobile phones over a long period of time can raise the risk of brain tumors, according to a Swedish study released on Friday, contradicting the conclusions of other researchers.

Last year, the Dutch Health Council, in an overview of re- mon type of rumor.

found no evidence that radiation from mobile phones and TV towers was harmful.

A four-year British survey in January also showed no link between regular, long-term use of cell phones and the most com-

# US town mystified as wife charged in pastor's murder

FAMILY photo of the Winkler family of Selmer, Tenn.

#### By Woody Baird

SELMER-MEMBERS OF A church planted flowers Saturday in memory of their slain pastor, while deputies went to Alabama to pick up his wife, who authorines said confessed to shooting him in their home.

The killing Wednesday in Selmer, a town of 4,600 people, baffled friends and church members who knew Matthew and Mary Winkler as a happy, loving couple,

Matthew Winkler was found dead in a bedroom at the couple's home after church members went looking for him when

the Fourth Street Church of

Mary Winkler, 32, was arrest ed on a first-degree murder charge Friday in Alabama, where she driven with the couple's three daughters, authorities

On Saturday, authorities in Baldwin County, Alahama. transferred her to the custody of McNany County sheriff's deputies who were expected to return her to Selmer later in the day, Baldwin County sheriff's spokesperson John Murphy said.

In Selmer on Saturday, members of Matthew Winkler's con-

sies outside the church in his honor. The flower beds were part of a spring cleanup he had planned.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent John Mehr said police know why Wankler shot her husband, but he would not disclose the motive except to say police did not believe it was infidelity. He would not comment on whether Mary Winkler had accused her husband of abuse. Court papers offered no hunt of a

Winkler Matthew preached at the Fourth Street Church for a little more than a

he did not appear for a service at gregation planted beds of pan-year. His wife was a quiet, unassurring woman who was subsutute teacher at an elementary school, church members said. They were married in 1996.

"Everything we saw belies what has happened," church member Janet Sparks said. "It just doesn't go together. Something is amiss, and we don't know what it is."

Authorities said that the couple's daughters were at the house when their father was shot and that investigators had found the weapon used to kill

At a Juvenile custody hearing in Alabama on Friday, a judge

placed the couple's daughters-Breanna, 1; Mary Alice, 6; and Patricia, 8-with paternal grandparents Dan and Diane Winkier, who live in Henderson, about 20 miles north of Seimer.

"It was important these kids were placed in a loving and nonhostile environment," said David Whetstone, a Baldwin County district anomey.

Orange Beach Police Lt. Rusty Roberts said the girls were "ex tremely sharp, bright children' and that Mary Winkler was very concerned about their well-be ing. She attended the hearing but did not speak to reporters

# The WORLD

Editor Luverno B. Gueco

# Thousands of students protest US immigration reform plans

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—THOUSANDS OF mainly Hispanic high school students boycotted classes Friday and marched through the California city of San Diego to protest plans to criminalize illegal immigration.



skipped classes in the southern city on the border with Mexico for a fifth consecutive day to protest pending US immigration reform legislation, school officials said.

"We are not criminals," proclaimed placards brandished by some of the demonstrators.

The students, many of them waving Mexican flags, marched in the city center demanding that plans to pass a law that could force the 11.5 million illegal immigrants working in the United States to leave the country.

Police were closely watching the demonstration that followed a week of protests across the United States against the reform bill that is pending debate in the US Senate.

On Monday, more than 36,000 pupils in Los Angeles joined tens of thousands of others across California, Texas and Nevada in staging walkouts from class to protest the proposed crackdown.

Some 500,000 people, mostly Latinos, last Saturday took part in one of the largest demonstrations in



PROTESTERS wave flags and cheer before marching through downtown San Diego, California March 31. At right, student Xochilt Martinez, 13, employs also her face to stress a plea.

More than 1,600 pupils recent US history in Los Angeles in a spectacular display of Hispanic people power against the reform plans. But the protests have largely

died down since the beginning of

However the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Cardína. Roger Mahony, urged students Friday to stay in school instead of taking part in further walkouts amid speculation of a fresh outbreak of major demonstrations.

There have been further rumors that a possible school beyent would be held on Friday, March 31," Mahony said a statement.

"As one who is deeply engaged in the overall efforts to have Congress pass just and humane immigration reform legislation, I am urging all students in the greater Los Angeles area to stay in school," he said.

The archbishop said that student boycotts did "not produce meaningful immigration reform" and in fact tended to polarize groups in the community and could backfire by building sup-

port for tougher leg-ISIADOD.

The US House of Representatives in December passed a bill that would make illegal entry in the United States a crime and heavily penalize employers of undocumented workers, opening the floodwaters of protest in the Hispanic community.

#### Freed reporter assailed US under duress, says father

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. -Released US hostage Jill Carroli made a propaganda video criticizing US presence in Iraq as a condition for her release, her father told the Christian Science Monitor newspaper on Friday

Carroti, 28, was seized in Baghdad on Jan. 7, and her translator was shot dead. The freelance reporter for the Monitor and other newspapers was freed on Thursday.

But soon after her release video footage posted on an Islamist website showed her praising Irag's insurgents, even predicted their victory.

"I think the majahedeen are very smart and even with all the technology and all the people that the American Army has here, they still are better at knowing how to live and work here, more dever." Carroll said in response to a question.

Asked what she meant, Carroll said: "It makes very clear that the mujahedeen are the ones that will win in the end."

Carroll's father Jim told the Christian Science Monitor newspaper that his daughter was forced to make the video in order to be released.

Jill was "under her captor's control," Jim Carroll told the Monitor. He based his information on a tong phone conversation with his daughter on Friday.

"She had been taught to fear" the captors, Jim Carroll said. The captors had not only killed her translator, but said they had already killed another American.

The reporter's father said the abductors "obviously wanted



maximum propaganda value in the US. After listening to them for three months she already knew exactly what they wanted her to say, so she gave it to them with appropriate acting to make x look

In the video Carroll also said that her upcoming release "shows the difference between the mujahedeen and the Americans, it shows the mujahedeen are good people fighting an honorable fight while the Americans are here as an occupying force treating the people in a very bad way"

The newspaper earlier vowed that Carroll would be given every possible assistance to recover after her ordea.

"We're deeply thankfu, for the monumental labors that went on in agencies and offices of the United States government, within the government of Iraq and among individuals in Iraq and worldwide," the Boston-based newspaper's board said in a state-

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Rain or Shine dumps Hapee

GAMES TODAY (Olivaret College Sports Center) 2 p.m.—TeleTech vs Granny Goose 4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Montaña

#### By Jasmine W. Payo

FLAUNTING ITS LETHAL FORM FROM START to finish, Rain or Shine whipped Hapee-PCU, 66-48, to claim the PBL Unity Cup's solo lead yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

The Elasto Painters cruised to their third straight victory behind Junjun Cabatu, who collected a game-high 18 points and eight rebounds.

Last conference's Most Varuable Player Jojo Tangkay and Gilbert Malabanan also teamed up for 23 points to keep the Painters ahead by double figures for most of the game.

"The supremacy of our big men, it's obvious that's our advantage," said Painters coach Leo Austria. "We also stopped Jason Castro in the first half. If we limit his production to 70 percent, I knew it [would be] enough for us to win in double

.Castro, who averaged 23 markers in the last two games, shot 14 of his 17 points in the second half to pace Hapee-PCU.

Montaña will try to join Rain or Shine at 3-0 when it battles Magnona at 4 p.m. today.

In the second game, Toyota Otis narrowly escaped struggling Harbour Centre, 76-74, to im-

prove to 2-1 Jonathan Aldave powered the Sparks in the crucial stretch, scoring eight of his 16 points in the final period. Sparks coach Louie Alas, though, wasn't exactly satisfied.

"It was an ugly win, we had 30 turnovers," not-

Hapee-PCU slipped to 1-2, while Harbour Centre skidded to its third straight ioss.

The scores: First Game

RAIN OR SHINE 66-L Cabatu 18, Tangley 12, Malabanan 11, Eman 9, Reyes 4, Ortiguerra 3, C. Cabatu 2, Gratic 9, Orbeta 0,



HARBOUR Center's Robbie Reyes (left) battles for a rebound against Toyota Otis Joe Deveance. JIM GUNO PUNZALAN

Sagad O, Alastra O, Robles O, Urra O.

HAPEE-PCU 48-Castro 17, Sarz 11, Espinas 6, Razon 4, Beiga 3, Baculi 3, Bucan 2, Guevarra 2, Moreño O, Gonzales O, Cantas O, Nation D. Garrido O.

Quarters, 20-12, 36-21, 48-33, 66-48

TOYOTA OTIS 76 Aklave 16, Aban 14, De-

veance 10, Baulista 9, Caslo 5, Larong 5, Rodriguez 4, Coronel 4, Andaya 3, Daa 2, Calaring 2, Fagardo 2

HARBOUR CENTRE 74-Yes 19, Reyes 16, Tenorio 11, Arafa 7, Aloren 7, Luarzon 4, Materholier 4, Chia 2, Coching 2, Gaco 2, Gamboa G. Lanete G.

Quarters: 15-12, 31-32, 55-65, 76-74

# RP to host World pool in November

By Musong R. Castillo

THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP WHICH Efren "Bata" Reyes won in 1999 and duplicated by Alex Pagulayan in 2004 will be hosted by the Philippines this year.

The 17th staging of the centerpiece event in the sport will be played on Nov. 4-12 with a record total pot of \$400,000 and the highest champion's purse ever of \$100,000.

Only the venue has yet to be decided, according to Yen Makabenta, chair of the board of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines and spearhead of the RP bid to bring one of the world's biggest sporting event here in years.

Macabenta added that the venue will be decided in the next couple of weeks when representatives from the organizing Matchroom Sports and ESPN arrive for inspection of the proposed compe-

The Philippine International Convention Center in Rocas Boulevard, the SM Mall of Asia along Diosdado Macapagal Highway and the World Trade Center in Buendia are three of the sites being considered.

The contract for staging the event, which will be run by an outfit headed by Makabenta, is for three years. Taiwan hosted the event the last two

Part of the venue requirement is a space big enough to accommodate at least 16 tables aside from a stand that will accommodate a gallery.

Those are the only things that are certain at the moment," Makabenta told the Inquirier over the phone yesterday. "Everything is a go and the venue will be determined in the next two weeks."

A press conference to be hosted and managedby ESPN, has been scheduled this Thursday at the Manila Hotel where Makabenta will be joined by the Matchroom representatives.

Wu Ching-chia became the youngest ever winner of the event last year at 16 years old after rallying from 12-16 down to defeat Kuo Po-cheng, 17-16, in the finals at Kaohsiung. Wu won \$75,000 for his victory.

Wu succeeded Pagulayan, who joined the country's pool eitre after his triumph in 2004. Pagulayan also was second in 2003.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante also came close to winning the event in 2002, placing second to Earl Strickland of the US. Reyes prevailed over Taiwan's Chang Hao-Ping

in the first of five straight staging of the event in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999

Makabenta said Matchroom and ESPN will take care of putting up the total pot.

Other expenses for holding the event itself will be shouldered by the local organizing group. Makabenta said details regarding this aspect will be announced later.

Tournament format will divide the 128-man starting field into 16 groups of eight players, who will play in a round robin under the alternate break system in the first four days.



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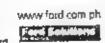


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with Lee

# Sunday SPORTS Aida seals title clash

## By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAPANESE SECOND SEED SHO Aida displayed the form that made him the world's No. 10 junior player, downing Peng Hsten-yin of Chinese-Taipei, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, yesterday to barge into the finals of the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer termis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Aida used his superior skills and speed in repeating his victory over the Taiwanese last year to move into the title match against third seed Lee Hsin-han also of Chinese Taiper.

"Peng had a very good game, but I just happened to play a little better," said the Japanese who will go for his third title here against an opponent ranked No. 17 in the world.

Lee ousted Chinese qualifier Bar Yan, 6-4, 6-4, in the other semifinal match, giving his rival no chance to duplicate his sensational upset win over top seed and tournament fa-

vorite Sanam Sing last Friday. Aida, fresh from a victory in the Genting ITF jumors in Malaysia two weeks ago, also downed Peng in the first round of the 2005 Asia Closed Championship in Bangkok, 6-4, 6-2.

"it's going to be a tough match but I'm ready, I will do my best to win." said Aida, an incoming jumor at the Shonan High School in Tokyo who reached the third round of this year's Australian Open Juniors.

Lee, a former member of the Junior Davis Cup team, is eyeing his fourth straight title this year after winning three tournaments in Bangladesh. He has seven singles and seven doubles in the titles in his junior career.

In boys' doubles, third seed Arda and Furniale Kita outlasted south seed Martin Kamenik of the Czech Republic and Dylan Sessagesmi of Switzerland, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, to advance in the semifinals against fifth seed Andrew Thomas of Australia and Johnny Hamui of the United States. Thomas and Hamui had earlier stunned top seed Sanam Singh and Jeevan Nedunchezhiv

Second seed Lee and Peng drubbed Ukrame's Ivan Amkanov and Vladyslav Klymenko, 6-4, 6-2, and will next meet eighth seed Yannick Thomet of Switzerland and Austen Childs of New Zealand, who eliminated fourth seed Artur Chernov and Daniil Arsenov of Russia, 7-



SHO AIDA of Japan returns the ball against Peng Hsien-yin of Taipei in the semilinals of the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer Junior Termis Circuit at the Rizal Termis Court. Aida won, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

# Mamiit, Taino may reprise winning act

WILL THERE BE A REPEAT OF THE sensational tennis tandem of Cecil Mamiit and Eric Tamo in the coming Asian Games?

The possibility is there according to the Philippine Tennis Association, which confirmed yesterday that the Fil-Americans have already expressed their intention to don the country's colors for the Asiad in Doha, Qatar in December.

Philtra vice president Ajay Pathak told the Inquirer that Mamiit and Tauno may eligible inclusion in the Asiad roster based OD the criteria set by the Task Force

MAMIIT

He said Mamilt is ranked eighth,

the Southeast Asian Games. The two conspired to secure the

Asian dou-

gether, they

are ranked

fourth un

Asia and

are the cur-

rent silver

medalist in

while Tamo men's team gold for the Philippines in the SEAG with Mamint als sixth in so daiming the singles title and Tamo pairing with Riza Zalameda for the mixed doubles crown.

Among those they are expected to face in Qatar are Asia's No. 1 Mahesh Bhupati and Leander Paes of India, the Thailand pair which beat them for the SEAG gold and another combination from Chinese Taipei, added Pathak. Marc Anthony Reyes



ROGER Federer easily advances after defeating David Ferrer in the semifinals.

# Federer versus Ljubicic in final

one brief lapse, Roger Federer needed only 59 minutes to bear David Perrer 6-1, 6-4 and reach the Nasdaq 100 Open final on

"I didn't give him much chance," Federer said. "I'm playing so well this week, it was tough for him from the

The result was hardly a surprise: Federer has advanced to the final in his past 11 tournaments, the longest such men's streak since John McEnroe made 12 consecutive finals in 1984.

Federer will bid for his second suc-

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—EVEN WITH cessive Key Biscayne title on Sunday against sixth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic, a Croat who advanced to his first final in the United States by beating No. 3 David Nalbandian 6-1, 6-2.

> Federer has won his past six meet ings against Ljubicic, although three times they split sers. Overall Federer

Every time when I have to play against him, it's like, 'OK, maybe this is the one," Ljubicic said. "But it's never happening. A couple of times I was very close. I really just hope to be at least close on Sunday."

Ljubicic is the first Croat to reach the men's final since Goran Ivanisevic in 1996. Ivanisevic woke up with a stiff neck the morning of his final and was forced to retire against Andre Agassi.

"He told me yesterday, If you win (in the semifinals), be careful with your neck," Ljubicic said. "He said, 'Sleep on the same pillow and don't open the

The women's final on Saturday will be an all-Russian matchup between No. 4 seed Maria Sharapova and No. 12 Svetlana Kuznetsova, each bidding for her first Key Biscayne title.



IVAN Ljubicic of Croatia celebrates his victory over David Nalbandian.

Gear up for the SUMMER in the HOTTEST Enjoy shopping madness until midnight in the BIGGI



# Buncio, Saulog top Endurocross series

tititled veteran Jovie Saulog shared the spotlight with scintillating victories in the first leg of the 2006 Endurocross series at the Timberland Heights Raceway in San Mateo, Rizal, recently.

Buncio scored a twinkill in the KPS-organized event, ruling the Beginner Open Production and the Local A categories in style. He scored a perfect 50 in the Beginner Open as he topped both the

BY TOP CHOICE

Figure 1 into the control of the con

Race 3—(Tri)—Bizzing Maidi-ei {1}, Desert Fy (3), Earl

Gray (2)
Race 4—{Penta/Ort/Fit}—Play
R Again (9), Nabagal (4),
Hear' Of The Wind (5).

Mandatay Ray (A), Magic Ewan Ko (3) Race 5—(Tri)—Movehead (1), Manaya (5), Marta Madi-tos (4)

ing (4)

6 (PautarOrt/Tri)

7 (PautarOrt/Tri)

Amazing Fisonza (9) 7—(Un/In)—Fast Bea-son (1), Bellin Bellin (3),

Helitice (8), Native Land

Rica 6—(On/In)—Love And
Money (2), St. Erukon
(7); Desan Dapolly (1),
Naman Naman/Paskii (6)
Rice
1—(On/In)—Arctic
Desart/Puppy Dog Tab
(5) Rhyme And A Prayor
(1), Adam's Call (7),
Lifetin Mare (4)

Mighty Mare (4)

Race 10—(Super 6/Ost/Trt)—
Speed Bullet (9), Overlure (8), Smile Di The
Wring (5) Dow Jones (4).

Speed Admiral (1)
Race 11—(Orvici)—Don King
(1), Nr Bonting (3),
Stratesphere (5), Santi

Bernard (2) 12: {Penta/Ort/Tri)-

Prince Valuant (5), Dumber Buster (4), Quant Je Puss (6), Step On The Gas (1),

Useria (8)
Parent 13—(Super G/Ort/Tit)—
Dazzing Atlan (12) Scalet
Verset (10) Hubom (1),
Mico's Incharge (2), Romonto (8), Road Runter (8)

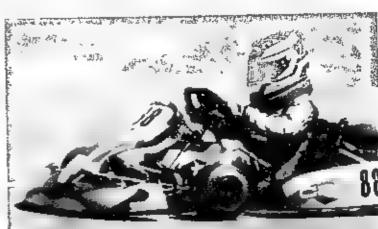
1 -(Ort/Orl) - Native Prince (3), Tervalac (4), Feman how Pa Rin (2),

first and second motos that were worth 25 points. it was practically the same result in the Local A

division, as he swept the two motos for a perfect 50, beating the challenge of Jun Mendoza (42) and Danny Felias (40) in the enduro festival backed by Filinvest Land Inc., WL Foods and Chadarakobi Production.

Saulog (50), on the other hand, fended off the challenge of fellow motocross great Joket Jao.

KP5 president Nant Pazcogum said the next leg is on May 28. For details, call 0922-3258413, 0922-3258411, fax: 932-3296, email. kp5@pkltdst.net and kinetic production@yahoo.com



JOHN ALVAREZ: Rising star of karting.

## Alvarez, Garcia power CRG's kart dominance

CEBU RACING GROUP, LED BY in the second heat, almost curtailing last year's Cadet Karter of the Year John Aivarez and Jess Garcia, had a blazing start in the lockoff of the 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 11-year-old Alvarez, also the reigning Junior Karter of the Year, railied from the tallend of the sixman pack to emerge runner-up in the newly introduced ROK Junior

He dominated the qualifying run and the first heat but a battery connection failure forced his kart to stall

his title bid for the Cebu Racing Group backed by Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Castrol and Thunder Energy Drinks.

But Alvarez put his disappointment aside and focused on the final race. He passed one katter after another and finish second with a time of 14:33.368, just 4.647 seconds behand winner Juha Turalba.

"It was a good but challenging

start," said Alvarez. Garcia, on the other hand, emerged the first winner of the new ROK class clocking 14:55:601.



NO HINDRANCE TO TENNIS: Ronnie Oquinalda, a member of the RP paralympics team, practices inside UP Diffman's tennis court. Oquinalda and his teammates hope that they can join the Malaysian Open this September.

# mar new WBC Int'l titlist

THE YOUNG FIGHTER GIVEN THE least chance of bagging the crown ended up having the last laugh as wiry Gabriel Pumar of Lapu-Lapu City took the World Boxing Council International minimumweight title yesterday with a seventh-round knockout of title-holder Tshepo Lefele at the Wembley Arenz in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Pumar knocked down the South Morales of Mexico last January. African four times, the last two in the seventh round that forced referee Andy Smale to stop the 12-round bout.

But Benedict Suico, the other Filipino in the "Parade of Champions" card, absorbed a unanimous decision loss to WBC International flyweight champion Monelisi Myekem of South Africa in another title bout.

"Wakee" Salud

Pumar, who improved his record to 9-0 with six KOs, is the country's second WBC International titlist after Manny Pacquiao, who holds the international super featherweight crown after his revengeful conquest of Errk

The International division is for boxers ranked outside of the top 10 list. With his win, over the WBC No. 12 Lefele, Pumar is expected to crash the top 15 ranking next month.

Pumar knocked down the South African for the first time in the fifth round, but referee Andy Smale ruled it a slip. Lefele again went down in the sixth

Suico fought with a fever due to frame as he grew tired from Pumar's ontonsilitis, according to manager Rex slaught. Two more knockdowns in the severath finally convinced the referee that it was over for the South African.

Salud said a grand welcome organized by Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Arturo Radaza awaits Pumar when he and his team arrives today at 12:30 p.m. in Cebu after a brief stopover in Hong Kong.

Pumar's relatives and fans are also expected to meet him at the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

"He really proved that underdogs are dangerous when taken for grant ed. Pumar also makes history as the first Filipmo to win a major crown in South Africa," said Salud. Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

## Bautista battles Mexican May 20

UNDEFEATED REY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA, WHO recently signed up with the Golden Boy Promotions of Oscar De la Hoya, will take on dengerous Mexican Hugo Dianzo in a non-title fight on May 20 underneath the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez showdown at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, in an interview with Notimes, announced that Dianzo is ready to take on the 19-yearold ALA Boy Bautista following the cancetation of his Feb. 24 fight with ex-world champ Ivan Hernandez. The fight will be Bautista's first under the GBP banner. The Bohol-raised Badésta (19-0, 14 KOs) holds the WBO Asia Pacific bantam title, but would most likely relinquish the belt as he now plans to campaign in the Salven L. Lagurabay heavier super bantam class.

# Air21 scuttles SLR in Isabela

GAMES

TODAY (Aradeta Col-

iceam)

4:10 p.m. -- Bgy.

Ginebra vs Alaska

6:35 p.m.—San Mig

vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

YANCY DE OCAMPO STOOD tallest as Air21 streaked past Sta. Lucia Realty, 113-100, last night in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup On Tour at the Josefina T. Albano Sports and Cultural Center in Cabagan, Isabela.

Mocking the defense by the Realtors' skyscrapers, the 6-foot 9 De Ocampo posted a personal milestone of 20 points and 22 rebounds to power the Express to their third victory in seven games.

De Ocampo kept 6-6 Dennis Espino and 6-9 Marlou Aquino busy inside the paint, allowing the rest of the Express to stage a huge run on the final three minutes.

From a 98-96 edge, the Express buckled down to work with a 12-1 assault starring Nino Canaleta and Wynne Arboleda, who nailed

The Express also held the Realtors scoreless in a span of almost three minutes, giving up only a single field goal courtesy of Nelbert Omolon when the outcome was already beyond doubt

The Realtors, who stayed at the cellar, mussed seven free throws while the Express rallied and absorbed a third straight defeat and fifth overall in six games.

Meanwhile, Barangay Gmebra hopes to keep its new formula going when the Kings test the Alaska Aces today

at the Araneta Collseum. The Kings snapped a three-game slide Friday, which coach Siot Tanquingcen attributed to a sudden change of

"It's normal when teams adapt a new system," said Tanquingcen after the Gin Kings subdued the Coca-Cola Tigers Friday right. You will struggle at first and lose your composure. I hope we could build something from our last victory,"

In the other game, San Miguel Beer collides against Talk 'N Text in what could be an acid test for the Phone Pals following their spectacular victory over the Gin Kings a week ago.





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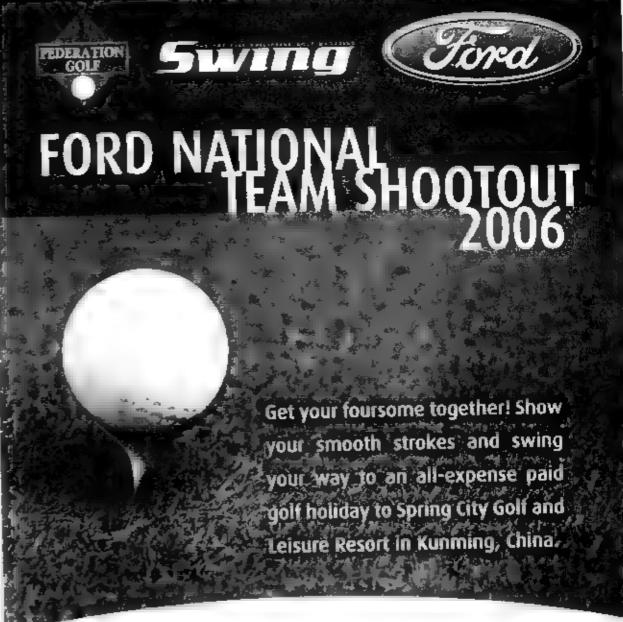
Chupungco, OSB (left) and treasurer Benedict M. Fabia, OSB (right)



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April 2 - Covindye Golf Chile, Inc. Blassgarate, Mad April 4-9 Sta. Desir Gold Claft, Sta. Beca. Layona - Alegaes Obselental Galf & Coursely Flob

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Stage 2: Satellite Elimination in each district

Stage 3: Grand Finals

# **Sunday**SPORTS

# Jenson pushes right buttons, takes Aussie GP pole



JENSON Button negotiates a turn.

son Button kept his head during a heetic qualifying session that threw up a little of everything Saturday to earn pole position for Sunday's Austraban Grand Prix.

The Honda driver gained his third career pole position and first since last year's Canadian GP

It was also the first pole for a full Honda team since 1968, although the Japanese motor company has shared many as an engine supplier.

But it wasn't easy. 'Tm still shaking with the excitement. It was really difficult to stay calm," Button said. "It's just so tricky

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA-JEN- out there with the conditions. It was very very wandy."

Button said the Melbourne weather made qualifying chaotic. It was dry on Friday, cool and wet on Saturday morning, then cool and dry in the afternoon.

"Manic. The whole day's been manic with the weather," Button

The two red flags that stopped the sessions didn't help the situation, nor did the increased traffic on the track when the sessions re-

Then there were the regular problems with the cars.

"We really struggled with grip. So on the grid for Sunday. to finally get this pole position is fantastic," Button said

Renault's Giancarlo Fisichella, who won two weeks ago at Malaysia, and Alonso, winner of the opening race at Bahrain, were secand third respectively.

Button's time was 1 minute, 25,229 seconds on the 5,3-kilometer (3,3-mile) Albert Park circuit. Fisichella's time was 1:25.635 with Alonso at 1:25:778.

Alonso, who qualified seventh and fourth in the last two races, before finishing second and first, was content with third

McLaren-Mercedes drivers Kimi Ratikkonen and Juan Pablo Montoya were fourth and fifth with Ralf Schumacher sixth in a Toyota.

It was a bleak day for Ferrari. Michael Schumacher, who was trying to break the career pole positions record he shares with Ayrton Senna at 65, didn't make it to the final session. He was eliminated by being among the six slowest drivers of the second session and will start the race from 11th.

His time of 1,26,718 was just behind the last qualifier, Jamo Trulli of Toyota in 1:26.327.

Nets clinch playoff slot; Sixers, Suns club foes

ATLANTA—THE NEW JERSEY Nets edged the Atlanta Hawks, 91-88, on Friday to clinch a playoff spot with their 11th successive victory.

The Nets, who are on the third-longest winning streak in franchise history, held their opponents to under 90 points for the 10th time in the past 12 games and won their sixth straight road game.

New Jersey (43-28) lead the Philaderphia 76ers by 10 games with 11 left to play, leaving them one win sny of the Atlantic Division title

"We played one of our worst games of the streak," New Jersey's Jason Kidd said. "We weren't that much better than they were tonight. On defense we got some stops when we had to."

Atlanta led by as many as 11 points in the first quarter and kept the game close throughout, with the score tied 84-84 with less than a minute remaining in regulation time.

put the Nets ahead by two with 42.6 seconds left to play. Kidd then made five of six free throw attempts in the dying seconds to preserve the lead over the Hawks, who have lost five of their last six.

In Toronto, Leandro Barbosa scored 28 points as the Phoenix Suns beat the Raptors, 140-126. In Orlando, Jameer Nelson scored 27 points

as the Magic beat the Dallas Mavericks, 108-99 In Charlotte, Andres Noctons scored 24 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Bobcats, 113-107

In New York, Allen Iverson scored 47 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Knicks, 117-112. Chris Webber added a season-high 34 points

and 12 rebounds for the Sixers. In Oldahoma City, Mare Jackson scored 24 points as the New Orleans Homets beat the Memphis Grizzlies, 107-102.

in Aubum Hills, Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince both scored 25 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 112-105. In Houston, Yao Ming scored 38 points and

Vince Carter then tipped in his own rebound to had 11 rebounds as the Rockets beat the Wash ington Wizards, 105-103.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and the Nuggets overcame poor play in the first three quarters to beat Minnesota, 106-94

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand and Sam Cas sell scored 22 points aprece to lead the Clippers past Utah, 106-91.

in Seattle, Kobe Bryant scored 43 points and the Los Angeles Lakers used an impressive second half to rout the Sonics,

In Oakland, California, Brad Mi et made four free throws in the final 9.9 sec onds as Sacramento nipped Golden State, 96

SCLAR SPORTS—Indiana Mailwaukoo (10 a.m.)

HPN-9 Inclane vs Milweriene (10, a.m.); Miami vs Cirveland (9 p.m.)



PHILADELPHIA star Chris Webber (right) shoots over New York big

# Redick named AP's best



INDIANAPOLIS—LI REDICK, WHOSE prolific 3-point shooter. 3-point shooting led Duke to a No. 1 ranking for most of the season, was selected the US college basketball player of the year by The Associated Press on Friday.

The guard was second in the United States in scoring this season, capping his career as the At-Coast Conference's all-time REATERS leading scorer and Division I's most line. A tireless worker on offense and ish, was selected coach of the year. AP man Eddy Curry at the Madison Square Garden in New Yor

player to win the award, with five 37.1 minutes for Duki winners since 1992. The award was which finished the sea first presented in 1961.

Redick averaged 26.8 points this season, shooting 47 percent from the lowed a national championship field, 42 percent from 3-point range season at North Carolina by leading and 85 percent from the free throw

an extremely intense Redick is the record sixth Duke player, he averaged son with a 32-4 record-

> Roy Williams, who fol an inexperienced team to a top 10 fin-

# Masters lore littered with memorable shots

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—THEY CAN stretch Augusta National beyond the full seconds, and history county line, or move the tees downtown, as Jack Nicklaus once jokingly suggested. They can add a pond and remove a bunker, plant trees and cut them down.

But there is one thing about the Masters that doesn't change.

Somewhere along the way to a green jacket lies a shot so incredible, so unforgettable, that it becomes part of the legacy of the Masters, a signature moment on a stage built for such drama.

Gene Sarazen put the Masters on the map with his "shot heard 'round the world," a 4-wood from 235 yards on the par-5 15th that went into the cup for a double eagle and carried him into a play-

And then there's Tiger Woods.

His 2 on the scorecard last year came with a 60-degree sand wedge from a much smaller distance, about 30 feet from behind the green to the hole, a shot that traveled twice that length by the time it climbed up the ridge on the par-3 16th, stopped like a school bus crossing railroad tracks, then made a slow, tantalizing trek toward the cup-

It stopped on the lip two pulled it into the hole.

"I was never thinking it had a chance," said Steve Wilhams, Woods' caddie who stood by his side, crouching, hoping for one more turn, his heart stopped like the thousands of fans surrounding the green and malions watching on TV, "It was slowing down, and I said, "I can't believe it's going

to be short.' But for some reason, it kept going. It was just amazing. You're just about to go forward and give whatever your reaction you're going to give, and then it stops.

"And then, boom!"

Sarazen and Woods provided bookend memories, 70 years apart, shots that define the magic of the Masters.

No telling what this year will bring, even on an Augusta National course that again has been strengthened by adding 155 yards on six holes in club chair Hootie Johnson's attempt to keep the course current with the times.



Woods is the defending champion, joining Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer as the only players with at least four green jackets. He is remembered for the Urum chip on the 16th green, but he is more proud of the 3-wood to the fairway, the 8-uron to 15 feet and the birdie putt to beat Chris Di-Marco in a playoff

The Masters starts on Thursday without Nicklaus,

who competed at Augusta National for the last time a year ago. Some say the longer course will make improbable a back-nine charge such as the one Nickiaus delivered 20 years ago when he shot 30 to win his sixth Mas-

But there will be something mystical that other majors rarely offer.

Seems like there always is.

Larry Mize chipping in from 140 feet to rip the heart out of Greg Norman. Fred Couples' ball rolling back toward Rae's Creek on the 12th hole, stopped by a blade of grass. Nicidaus making a 45-foot

birdie putt on the 16th hole, as Tom Weiskopf and Johany Miller watched dejectedly from the tee box.

"You can feet there is an aura seeping out of the ground," DiMarco said. "You remember Jack making that putt up the hill, and you remember Davis (Love III) chipping up the hill. I try to forget Tiger chapping in."

Woods' miracle chip for birdle might embody what the Masters brings, but it also speaks to his own legacy as the dommant player of his time, on page to be the greatest champion ever

Woods returns having won the Masters and British Open, and finished second at the US Open and in a tie for fourth at the US PGA Championship, Woods already has won three times this year, including Dubai on the European tour.

And he remains a big favorite at Augusta National, perhaps more so this year at the Masters because of the additional length and because none of the six players behind him in the world ranking has won this year.

And because of moments like that chip adding to Woods' legend, players wonder what he'll do next.

# Mickelson stretches BellSouth lead to six

DULUTH, GEORGIA-DEFENDING CHAMPIon Phil Mickelson shot a 65 as he continued to attack the Tournament Players Club at Sugarloaf course at a record pace in the BellSouth Classic on Friday.

One day after matching the course record with a first-round 63, Mickelson was 7 under in the second round to set a tournament record for 36 holes at 16-under 128.

Mickelson said his emphasis was to carry some steam into the Masters next week. He said he isn't thinking about setting a US PGA

scoring record. "I think that the way that the course is continually getting more difficult, I think that's unreaustic," Mickelson said, adding "What

you're talking about is not in my mind, no." The US PGA record for most strokes under par through four rounds on a par-72 course is 29 under by Joe Durant in the 2001 Bob Hope

Mickelson is on pace to finish at 32-under 256. The US PGA record low total for 72 holes is 254 by Tommy Armour III in the 2003 Texas

"I think at the moment Phil is the only one really doing the fireworks," said Jose Maria Olazabal, who shot an 8-under 64 in the second round. "I think he's the one that really maybe has that record in his sight."

There was a long procession of low scores again on Friday, when 79 players at par or better survived the cut.

Those chasing Mickelson, including Olazabal, spoke as if the tournament's defending champ was distancing himself from the field in Tiger-like fashion.

Even with an impressive two-day total of 135, Olazabal st.ll trails Mickelson by seven.

JJ Flenry matched Mickelson's 65 on Friday to move into second at 134-n total that would have led in five of the previous nine years. Instend, Henry is six shots off Mickelson's lead.

Ochoa keeps 4-stroke Kraft cushion

RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA-Lorena Ochoa went from firing at flags to grinding over every shot as winds swirled under hazy clouds and made the Kreft Nabisco Championship feel more like a major on Friday.

All that mattered was keeping her lead, and a 1-under 71 was enough to do that.

"It's amazing how easy things were yesterday, and today I worked really hard for my 1 under," Ochoa said. "I was pleased

with my round. I really like my position." Coming off a 62 in the first round, which tied the lowest score ever in a major, Ochoa twice scrambled for par and pieced together enough birdies to maintain her four-shot lead over 16-year-old Michelle Wic.

Ochon was at 11-under 133.

Wie, playing in her first tournament in five weeks, caught the brunt of the cool, gusty conditions and did well to shoot a 71.

She had a three-putt bogey on her fourth hale (No. 13), then held herself together with par-saving putts of 4 feet on the next

She didn't miss her first green until No. 6-her 33rd hole of the tournament-and saved par, then nearly hosed out a chip on the eighth as she finished with five straight pars.

She will be in the final group with Ochon, her first time in that spot since she was in the final threesome in the last round of the Kraft Nabisco in 2003 at age 13. Wie shot 76 that day and tied for ninth.

Karrie Webb, Inducted Into the World Golf Hail of Pame last November, provided the spark by holing a 7-iron from 152 yards for engle on the 15th hole, stuffing another 7-iron into 10 feet on the next hole and shooting a 68 to finish at 6-under 138, along with Seon Hwa Lee, who shot her second straight 69.

Paula Creamer outdid Annika Sorenstam again and shot 1-under 71, leaving her at 4 under 140.

Sorenstam sputtered again in the first women's major of the year, twice three-putting for bogey on her way to an even-par 72 that left her 10 shots behind.

She won last year by eight shots at Mission Hills and got halfway to the Grand Slain, then set that as her primary goal for this season. But this wasn't the start she had in mind.

"I'm playing good enough, but it's got to happen," Sorenstam said.

None of the early starters were able to do anything that made Ochon worry, When the 24-year-oki Mexican stepped to the first tee, she still had her four-shot lead over Wie and noone else was within six shots.



OCHOA: Looking good

MELITERS.

# SundaySports

# From BI detention cell to hospital for Graham

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ONE-WEEK DETENTION has taken a toll on his health.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim was brought to the Metropolitan Hospital in Tondo, Manila, Friday night due to high blood pressure and chest pains.

\*The doctors said stress is one cause," said Lim, who is expected to remain in the hospital for

further medical tests.

The Bureau of Immigration arrested Lim last March 24 based on an earlier ruling that the longtime BAP official is a citizen of the Republic of China (Tarwan).

Lim remains in the custody of the BI at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, despite a temporary restraining order on his deportation.

The 49-year-old Lim also has a pending case at the Court of Appeals since December.

Wednesday to explain why a warrant of arrest was issued when I still have a pending case," said Lim. "They have until next week to explain."

Last Thursday, Lim was recommended for confinement after a medical checkup at the BI office in Intramuros, Manila, showed he had an irregular heartbeat.

But he was brought back later in the day to Camp Bagong Diwa,

"The CA asked Immigration last where he continued to issue statements supporting BAP's bid for readmission to the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Aside from the POC issue, BAP president Joey Lina has requested the world basketball federation (Fiba) on Fnday to "set aside or rescind" its Memorandum of Understanding with the POC regarding the formation of a new cage body

"Mr. Lina is continuing the fight,"

# M. Lhuillier nips Mantawi

MANDAUE CITY—THE M. LHUILtier-Cebu City Jewelers bested the Mantawi Traders, 93-90, in overtime to grab the lead in the Visayas Division of the ML Kwarta Pada.a Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference at the city sports complex here.

Peppery point guard Woodrow Enriquez topscored with 24 points, but it was bull-strong Enrico Llanto who made the biggest impact as the Jewelers coasted to a 2-0 start.

Lanto finished with 20 points, including nine of the team's last 11 points in regulation and four in overtime that gave the Jewelers of businessman/sportsman Michel Lhudher the lift over the Traders.

With time winding down to the last 14.9 seconds and M. Lhuillier up at 80-78, Mantawi's Kim Calo pierced the middle for a layup, but missed his attempt. Glenn Yuson grabbed the offensive rebound and passed the leather to Sevilla, who sank the equalizer, 80-all, with a second left, sending the game into

Sevilla opened the extra fiveminute period with a breakaway layup off a steal from Enriquez for an 82-80 Mantawi lead, but that proved to be the Traders' last hurrah as Aldrin Ocañada and Llanto presided over a searing 12-2 run to push M. Lhuillier ahead by eight, 92-84, with only 59 ticks left.

#### SPORTSWATCH

#### Bitoon wins Pichay tune-up tilt

TOP SEED International Master Richard Bitoon forged a quick draw against fellow IM Ronald Bancod in the south and final round to emerge champion in the President Prospero Pichay Jr. Invitational Tune-Up Games Saturday at the Syncopados Music Bar in Mabini, Malate, Manile. Bitcom and seventh seed MM Nick Nisperos talked 5.0 points apiece, but Bitoon took the title after the Bucholz lie break was applied. They, however, split the combined prize of P5,500 for the first and second placers. Nesperos beat former Olympian member WNM Loreshyl Cuizon. The event was sponsored by newly elected NCFP president and Surigao del Sur representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. Bancod scored 4,5 points to finish in a tie for 3rd to 8th places with 12-year-old FM Wesley So, NM Almario Marion Bernardino Jr., NM Efren Bagamasbad, WIM Cristine Rose Mariano and Computer Deuterium of Filipino inventor Ferdinand Musca, Mariano, an Air Force enlisted personnel, received P5,000 for top-MM Marion Bernardino pang the women's class.

#### Amoranto leads semis qualifiers

AMORANTO Table Tennis Club led two others in the semilinals of the Uni-Orient Table Tennis Tournament recently at the Green Paddle Table Tennis Center in Caloocan City. The aces from Amoranto won all their 11 games in the 12-team round-robin to emerge heavy favorite to rule the event which attracted come of the country's best players. Leading Amoranto's charge are Beverly Vitter, the country's No. 7 lady player and national age-group champions Michael and Adrian Redolfo. Philippine Cultural High School, its tone loss inflicted by Amoranto, also made it to the semis with a 10-1 state. Three-time Palarong Pambansa veteran Alvic Chua spearheads PCHS' title-drive. Chua is supported by Jayson Jaquilmo of various Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Association Table Tennis Tournaments. Marciva gained the third slot in the semifinals with an 6-3 win-loss state, white Xavier (6-4) and Green Paddle (6-5) are still in the hunt for the fourth and final semis slot.

#### Beach voileyball on Golf Power

GOLF Power Plus features this afternoon the first set of the championship match. between Adamson University Team 1 and College of St. Benilde Team 1 in the 1st Samsung Women's inter-Coflegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired at 3 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9 and on ABS-CBMs The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. It is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon. Fistorama follows at 3:30 p.m. The episode features 6-rounders between Mike Tumbaga and Senny Patern at 126 hs and Efren Huesca and Ernesto Fontanilla at 112 lbs.

#### Big showdown at SJC April 5

VISAYAS and Mindanao cockers will square off with their Metro Marila counterparts in the LCC Davad 5- cock derby on Wednesday, April 5, at the San Juan Colliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Hosts Dori Du of Davao and Louis Cus of Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) have invited 50 particlpants in this showdown of sabong heavyweights. Among the participants are Miloy Nasser, Pape Tan, Bebot Uy and Rey Castaneda of Davao, Elmer and Dodong Codilla, of Ormoc. Wakee Salud of Cebu, Rep. Butch Pichay of Surigao, Primallion Brothers of Zamboanga, Chito Tinsay of Itoilo, and Nene Abello of Negros Occidental. Metro Manila will be bannered by sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Jun Topacio, Gov. Ito Vnares, Ric de Guzman, NCA World Championship winner R. Pineda, Lito Orillazz William Co, Serry Ramos, Jet Fernando and Jingco Brothers.

#### Heritage Cup third leg April 4

THE SHOWDOWN of high-caliber breeders resumes at the 20,000 -- seat Araneta Coliseum when the third leg of the Philippins Heritage Cop 5- builstag derby series unfolds on Tuesday and Thursday. April 4 and 6. To be fielded are bullstags with 2005 Bakbakan wingbands and are accredited by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), 'These bullstags are winners in the 2005 Bakbakan 9- stag derby, so a tough fight is expected," said Rene "Boy" Disz of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). Submission of weights is tomorrow at the Araneta green gate, from 2-9 p.m. Call 9113101 and 9112928 for info. Heritage Cup's second leg champions (March 21 and 23) were Ratty Campos, Henry Tan, Joey Rebsdavia, Nelson Uy, Billy Abne, Alwyn Sy, Ramero Yu, Tony Galang and William Chia.

#### Las Piñas cockfest slates 50 fights

THE SUNDAY special 3-cook derby sizzles at 7 p.m at the Las Pinas Coliseum today with 50 encounters on top. Host of the event, with P300,000 in cash prize going to the winners, is the Bodyguard group headed by RC Sayaman, Entries must be submitted from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and participants may call 873 - 1040 and 874 - 3910 for details. The highly awaited Big Fight 5- cock derby, with an entry fee of P33,000, comes on April 8 with Garry Ramos as host. Ramos, a fixture in bigtime derbies with his regular entry names like Blue Blade Joke and Against All, said more than 30 entries have confirmed their participation.

#### NCA 7-cock derby at Rollgon

THE FIREFLY Group and Amboy Manlapaz of the National Cockers Association are hosting a 7-cock derby on April 4 and 6 Tuesday and Thursday at the Rollgon Mega Cockpit In Parameque City. Aside from the entries of big names in the NCA as Dand-Ing Cojuangeo, Ito Ynares, Rudy Albano, Iggy Armyo, Ronnie Puno, Butch Pichay, Alex Escalorss, F Berin, Arman and Manny Santos, Ellan Nagario, Boyet Josen, Ric de Guzman and Rana Madina of San Francisco, California, USA, Jingo brothers, Jet Fernando and Edu Manzano.

#### Pagcor, PCSO back Fearless Fighting

THE FEARLESS Righting Championships (FFC) has drawn corporate and government backers as it braces for the highly anticipated showdown arrong fighters from all disciplines in the most gripping mixed martial arts event ever to be staged here. Pageer and PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) have thrown their all-out support to the event unfolding April 7 at the Metrowelk complex in Ortiges Center. Other sponsors are Revicon, Tanduay Rhum, Smart, Motolite, Red Bull, Superb Security and Partee Bus Line. Alex Lopez, promoter a FFC, said admission is free.

#### Clark hosts CSI racing 4th leg

THE PHILAMILIFE Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race shifts to high gear next week when the fourth leg of the circuit is held April 8 at the parade grounds of Clark Field, Pampanga. Closs to 300 bets in four divisions are expected to start at 8 a.m. Clark Dev't, Corp. president Antonio Ng and Frank Madiangbayen, manager of CDC customer service, will grace the event. Call 241-0415 or 241-0418.



DEXTER BACKS BOWLERS: The national bowlers will be wearing Dexter shoes in tournaments, From left are Joonee Gatchallan, Chester King, Tyrone Ongpauco, CJ Suaroz, Biboy Rivera and Markwin Tee.

# N. Cotabato cagers spoil Iloilo's debut

Jr. got back at his old team Friday night as Gow Manny Pinol's North Cotabato Braves spoiled the debut of the Iloilo City Warriors, 95-83, in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the USA gym here.

Allado, high school teammate of Purefoods star James Yap and an ex Warrior, scored nine of his team high 14 points in the payoff period to lead the Braves to their second win in three games.

Allado added four rebounds, two assists and two steals while sookie Ryan Regalado shot 13 points as the Braves matched Valencia's record in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The Warriors of Mayor Jerry Trenas and Iloilo Baskerball League led 28-23 in the first period after dropping a 13-0 bomb. But the Braves' Anselmo Da-

LOLO CITY -EDUARDO ALLADO gatan and Regalado combined for 12points in a searing 16-0 run to race to a 70-53 lead. They never looked back.

The closest the Warriors came of the Braves after that was at 63-70 following a 10-0 spurt sparked by E.drin Senierez.

"Edu (Aliado) was pumped up coming into the game. He wanted to make a good show before his family and friends." Said North Cotabato coach Buboy

Senierez led ail scores with 27 points, while teammate Ruel Balgos had 14 points and 11 boards

N. Cotabato 95-Allado 14, Realado 13, Martinez 9, Cuidora 6, Ligue 8, Dagatan 8, Cabanog 8, Binas 6, Clar 6, Del Norte 6. Reves 2, Tamayo 2 Etraia 1, Sansaet 0

Bollo 83-Senierez 27 Baigos 14, Sencli 10. Leonida 10. Bautista 7. Antenor-Cruz 6. Ganzon 5, Sucardito 2, Sina-on 2, Jima O, Ogunsaya O. Onarce O, POrar O

Quarterscores: 23-28, 54-51, 77-69,



GRAVITY DEFIER: Nate Adams of the US performs during the freestyle motocross show "Red Bull X Fighters" in Mexico City's bull ring, March 31.

## Alienation

THE PAPERS SAY JOEY LINA WALKED OUT of the stakeholders' meeting because Joey resented the renaming of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) into Pilipinas Basketbail.

If true, I say, what's in a name? A rose by any other name still smeds

A president winning by fraud still reigns

like a real queen. A person stealing one peso or a milion bucks still qualifies, either way, as a thief.

But if only for the sake of argument, the name BAP can't be used anymore for reasons of dignity and propriety.

If I may remind Joey, the name BAP has long been sullied after it got itself experied last year by the Philippine Olympic Committee's general assembly for various offenses against the Olympic movement. To have it resurrected would be an insult to the intelligence of the 35 or so NSA presidents who had voted for its expulsion.

You don't resurrect a dead horse when discussing new directions unless you want retrogression instead of progression.

Why Joey Lina can't look, refuses to see, "through a glass omon" up to now, why that really boggles the mind

If they say Joey Lina is now a villain because he was one of five stakeholders tasked by the POC to restore order in basketball, I can only shake my head. Look, had he not walked out from the fifth session of the Summit of Five, we might well be on the road to getting readmitted into the good graces of the World Basketball Federation (Fiba)

#### SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

hitch-free. Isn't that what everybody wants, the Fiba lifting our suspension so that we can resume anew our quest for honors abroad, starting with the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in De-

Indeed, I find it from that of the five - Noli Eals of PBA, Chino Trinidad of PBL, Jun Capistrano of UAAR Fr. Vic Calvo of NCAA and Joey Lina of BAP - the one who caused all this trouble in the first place tried to be on the offensive instead of being, at the very least, on the humble side of things.

What has become of Joey Lina?

Joey Lina, I feel, is having himself misled by elements out to do more harm than good to him and to Philippine basketball.

In a letter he said he sent to Patrick Baumann, the Fiba secretary general, Joey now wants the Fiba to rescind its Memorandum of Understanding with the POC mandating for a formation of a new basketball body in place of the BAP Joey also asked the Fiba to lift the country's basketball suspension (cheers) and allow the BAP to sort out its problems at home (jeers!). His reasons

One, the POC and the other stakeholders refused to recognize the BAP as the govern-

ing body of basketball in the country.

Puzzling, indeed! How can the POC and the stakeholders still recognize the BAP when it has been expelled from the POC rostersince last year yet?

Two, the MOU required a consensus and not a majority decision in resolving a dis-

How can there be a consensus when Joey walked out of the summit? When the four remaining stakeholders put up Pilipinas Basketball, that was it. Was the vote of all four not consensus enough?

Three, Pilipinas Basketball was formed with only four major stakeholders based in Metro Manila instead of "a balanced and countrywide representation from all levels of the sport."

Oh, well, all four-PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA-truly represent not only the whole spectrum of the basketball nation but even Asia and the world as well. Why, because it is from these associations that we pluck out the best players of the land to battle for honors year in and year out for the country abroad. With these four associations, what more can one ask for? Of course, once we recapture Fiba's blessings, the merging of all baskerball groups like the NBC of Tac Padilla will be forthcoming and a mere formality.

l pray that Joey Lina sees the light-soonest. He's a good man. Take it from me, his compadre. I'd hate to see him alienated the rest of his life.

That'd truly hurt me.

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

# Kimoni Academy listing starts April 16

HAVING MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT IN the tution's training director. local badminton industry, Kimonl Philippines stretches its network further with the faunching of the Kimoni Badminton Academy designed to improve the skills of Filtpino players.

Kimoni Philippines Chief Executive Officer Billy Lim-it, the main force behind the rise of the Kimoni brand, said that the early start of registration for the academy on April 6 will give them the chance to evaluate participants and get them acquainted with the program.

The academy, according to Lim-It, offers structured badminton training sessions and under a competent teaching staff ied by Martin Araneta, former coach of the Philippine team who will serve as the insti-

The training venue is inside the Kimoni building at 39 Bingo Street, Sta Mesa

Heights, Quezon City. The school offers training courses for the amount of P3,600 each to beginner, intermediate or advanced enrollee. Each trainee will get 12 training sessions with free shirt, free use of Kimoni court and shuttlecocks

and will be awarded with a Kimoni Badminton Academy Certificate after the training's completion. Inquiry can be coursed through Luigi So, Kimoni Philippines' Director, at 414-5258.

Meanwhile, Davao City made a recordbreaking tourney when close to 400 badminton afficionados joined the third leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 held at

4play Badminton Court recently.

Seven teams from the cities of Tacurong, Davao, General Santos, Bukidnon, Cagayan De Oro, Tagum and Kidapawan disputed the events' various levels with categories on doubles for men's, ladles', mixed', juniors' 16-20 years and juniors' 15 years and under Winners of each level and category advance to the Battle of the Champions that will be held in Marketl Market on July 22 and 23, with more than a million pesos in each and Kimoni products at stakes.

Nikka Sotelo, a member of Kimoni Philippines' board of directors, said that Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006' next stop will be at Tacloban Extreme Badminton Club in Tacloban City on April 8 and 9.

E-mails pr\_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



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# Atienza backs RP Open softball

boost yesterday when Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pledged the city government's full support behind the revival of the National Open Men's and Women's Championships.

Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera, executive vice president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines (Asaphil), said the Open, in mothballs the last four years, will stage a grand comeback next month with the country's premiere city as host.

We deeply thank Mayor Atienza for his genuine concern for the sport, which I know has always been close

member that, during our time, he Atienzas support. would always be at the Rizal Memorial balipark watching our games."

The revival of the event was proposed by Codifiera and supported by four of nine active members of the Asaphil board in a bid to improve the performances of the Philippine Blu-Boys and Girls which according to Codifiera have been declining.

Asaphil vice president for Luzon Antonio del Monte, VP for Western Visayas Greg Jimena, director for Mindanao Joaquin "Boy" Sarabia, and director for Central Visayas Mari-

PHILIPPINE SOFTBALL GOT A BIG to his heart," said Codifiera. "I still re- no Tancinco also acknowledged

In last year's World Men's Championships in New Zealand, the RP Blu Boys performed poorly, winning only two games. The two-time Asian champions also lost an abbreviated game in last year's Asian Men's championships to Japan by 7 runs.

In the last Southeast Asian Games, the Blu Boys also suffered a rare loss to Indonesia before recovering to win the title. The Blu Girls also dropped a match to Thailand in the biennial event after dominating the sport for



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# **MY Games** inaugural rites today

FG, PSC chief invited

THE MANILA YOUTH Commission (PSC) chair William Games (MYG) unfurl today at 5 p.m. in col-mated 15,000-strong audience will orful and festive opening rites at the sports greats led by legendary Rizal Memorial Track coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and Stadium.

dance demonstrations will be spiced up with a cheering competidon, acrobatic show, tackwondo drilis and a fireworks display to usher in the week-long multi-event competiuon featuring the city's best under-17 athletes.

Manila Mayor Lito Arienza leads a host of city had luminaries and representatives ATIENZA from the city's 897

barangays and 130 private and trASports, and Concept Moversinpublic schools in opening the event. Invited to grace the opening were First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, Games and Amusement Board (GAB) chief Eric Buhain and Philippine Sports

Ramirez.

Over 10,000 athletes and an esticonverge at the Rizal oval.

Arienza will also honor Manila s Eduardo Pacheco.

The MY Games, organized by the The usual parade of athletes and Manila Sports Council (Masco) un-

der chair Arnold "Ali" Abenza, will serve as a qualifying event for members of Team MaynulA to the 2nd MY Games National Invitationa, in October.

sented by Converse with support from the Pageor, San Miguel Corp., Super Ferry, Montaña Pawnshop, Globe Telecoms, Milo, Air21, In-

vitationa.

The Invitationa, will pit the finest athletes from the capital city against their counterparts from other local government units nation-

# Asian 9-ball Tour qualifying slated

THE QUALIFYING ROUND FOR the Enerva International Asian 9ball Tour Ladies Championship gets underway on April 24-25 at Paeng's Skybowl in Robinson's Gallena, Mandaluyong City.

Sixteen slots are up for grabs in the event organized by RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP).

Among the local seeded players are 2005 SEA Games double gold winner Rubilen "Bingkay" Amit and fellow national team members Iris Rahola, Mary Ann

Basas and Johanna Dee. The event will be aired live on

The main draw will include the top female players from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore,



**AMIT: Seeded** 

Thailand, Japan, Korea, China and Tarwan

Some of the Asian superstars expected to join are reigning back-to-back world champion Ga Young Kim of Korea, Zhou Mengmeng of China and Akimi Kajitanı of Japan. For details, call 896-9940. Marlon Bernardino

# Tour de Vera April 7

THE ANNUAL BAYAMBANG, Pangasinan bikefest dubbed Tour de Vera will be held on April 7.

The helpful place.

A total of P31,000 in cash prizes, trophies and medals will be at stake.

The race will traverse the towns of the third district of Pan-

gasinan twice with a total distance of 150 km.

The event was organized by Bayambang Mayor Leo de Vera Jr in conjunction with the celebration of the Bayambang town flesta. It's exclusively for amateur cyclists with a maximum of 60 participants.

MENT

Editor Emmis G. Velarde

# FAP starts screening for Luna Awards

By Bayani San Diego jr.

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS ANNUAL LUNA Awards in May, the Film Academy of the Philipnnes (FAP) has begun screening the short-listed hims prior to the final selection of nominees.

PAP executive secretary John Suarez explained that nominators were narrowing down the number of semifinalists and that the final list would soon be submitted to the general membership for

The nominators include directors Celso Ad.

Castillo, Physiod Perex and Mei Chiongio SCIBEITYWW IA Bautist and Jones Carreon, cinematographent Shayne Clemente and Eduardo Cabrales: editors Edgardo Vinarao and Ron Dale; production Mariny designen Morfe and Edgar Maron Littanua, musiciana Willy Cruz and John Lesaca: and sound men Jose Clamaco and Roily Ruta.

Director general Leo
Maronez told Inquista
Entertainment, "The
ated works will be
trimmed down to five
finalists in 12 categones by the end of
April."

#### Topnotchers

Among the cited works are both mainstream and independent digital films.

Topnotchess are mainstream releases—Regal and Good Harvest's "Blue Moon," with 16 citations (nine for performances), Star Cinema's "Nasaan Ka Man," 12, and "Dubai," 11, Canary's "Kutob," 10; and Regal's "Ako Legal Wife," 10

The four digital films that received citations are: ufo pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maidmo Oliveros" with seven citations; Brilante

Mendoza's
"Masahista," four; Ellen
Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga
Pusang Gala" and Paoio Vilialuna and Ellen
Ramos "Ilusyon."

These four digital films were shot on mint-DV and blown up to 35mm film for theatrical release.

Actors in the digital movies stand out on the short list: Nathan Lopez for Best Actor, JR Valentin and Ping Med.na for Best Supporting Actors ("Maximo"); Coco Martin for Best Actor and Jaciyn Jose for Best Actress ("Masahista"); Irma Adlawan for Best Actress and Ricky Davao for Best Actor ("Mga Pusang Gala"); and Jaycee Purker for Best Actress ("Ilusyon").

Auraeus Solito ("Maximo") is being considered



EDDIE Garcia, Dennis Trilio and Christopher de Leon in "Blue Moon," with 16 citations

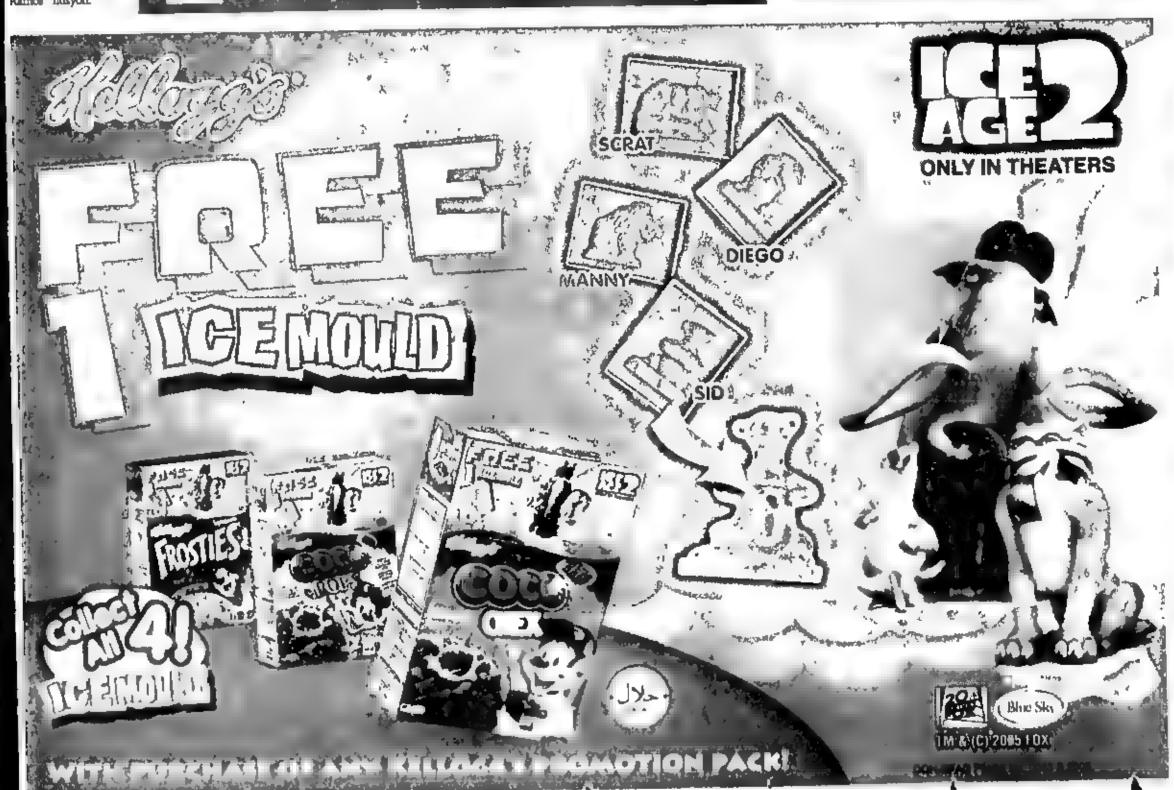
for Best Director, along with Joel Lamangan ("Ako Legal Wife" and "Blue Moon"), Cholo Laurel ("Nassan Ka Man"), Erik Mant ("Exodus"), Mark Melly ("La Visa Loca"), Rory Quintos ("Dubal"), Jose Javier Rayes ("Kumb"), Tony Rayes ("Enteng

FAP/A3-4











R-18

der te grand part dage di Manda di Sustanda di Aria di Aria.

SHARON Stone goes for broke.

WITECH >

# Boring, laughable in spite of all that sex

temporary queen of high-end trash.

OWING IN THE FOLLOWING THEATERS:

My one below 13 year and may be admit

Often luridly aughable in its action, dialogue and huffy-puffy sexual imagery, this belated sequel to the 1992 guilty pleasure that launched Stone's career at least spares no expense in fashion, sets, cinematography and other technical trappings.

QUOHIETTA 184 GREENBELT 183 POWERPLANT Shangri-La Gateway Festival Alabang Town Robinson's (FRMITA, GALLERIA, METROEAST, PIONEER, NOVALICHES, LETRE). CINERAMA GOISCO

City ROBEN. WalterMart MAKATI Market-Market EastWood BLUEWAVE Sta Lucia Starmalt ABC

PASAY (CPBU) Ayala FMALL Oriente Cineplex Cinema (DAVAO) Gaizano Victoria JS. NCCC.

Ali Mall Greenhitis REMAR Metroposis Gotesco GRAND Gotesco COMMONWEALTH Masagena

Everything begins in the mind

ARON STONE

IF NOTHING ELSE, "BASIC INSTINCT 2" "Basic Instinct 2" rooks like filet mignon may solidify Sharon Stone's title as con- with satiny bearnaise sauce artfully accompanled by herbed new potatoes and a pretty

REVIEW

parsley floret, but it goes down like ground chuck left festering in its own juices under the sun a few days. If Stone looked anything less than

hot, which she does, "Basic Instinct 2" would be sad as well as tawdry, because it's always sad when someone tries to relive past glories if they no longer

have the goods, Lean, firm and a luring, Stone clearly has not passed her femme fatale expuration date yet.

A fair number of fans of the onginal may check it out, but TANKS OF BUILDING than a guilty pittle, good for occasional guffaws over its absurd language and some of Stone's predatory posturing, but mostly boring, despite all the sex.

Strangely, Stone is at her most erotic m the opening sex scene, the only one where she's fully clothed. Her blackwidow crime novelst Catherine Tramel) has moved from San Francisco to London, where she continues to mess with any XYchromosomed members of the species unfortunate enough to cross her path.

At the start, Catherine's racing through London at her sports car while being pleasured by her doped-up compamon, a British sports star. Stone's heaves and gasps are the most sexually honest moments in all the movie's rather goofily unpleasant fornication scenes.

"Basic Instinct 2" looks like filet mignon Michael Caton-Jones ("Scandal," "City by the Sea") plunges us into the over-the-top world of filmmaker Paul Verhoeven and screenwriter Joe Eszterhas, the sleaze-purveyors extraordinaire of the original "Basic Instinct." Catherine's high-speed escapade ends with a literal bang, her passenger winds up dead, and our anti-heroine again is a prime suspect for murder.

Replacing Michael Douglas, who played the San Francisco detective Catherine seduced and degraded in the first movie, is David Morrissey as Michael Glass, a criminal psychiatrist assigned to evaluate her mental

Unlike Douglas, who has a gift for playing characters stable on the surface but squirre.ly underneath, Morrissey's Glass is a rock at the outset, a man so on his game that it's just silly how easily and grotesquely he fails under - dr - - 40

nomes pine up as Catherine messes with the heads of Glass and the people around him, including his mentor (Charlotte Rampling, squandered in a throwaway role) and a Scotland Yard detective (David Thewlis, who manages to flesh out a dry part with quirky humor that often makes him the most interesting presence on screen)

#### Fantastic costumes

Other than some substantive roles on British television, Morrissey has been a bit actor or supporting player at best in such films as "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" and "Hilary and Jackie." The stodgy biandness he exudes in "Basic Instanct 2" is not likely to put him on any leading-man short lists

But if Irishman Liam Neeson ever does a movie requiring a long-lost English cousin, Morrissey could handle the part. The two actors share a passing resemblance.

Stone is costumed fantastically, though Catherine's backless dresses and skirts slitted thigh-high are such temptress stereotypes, the outfits provoke as many laughs as the vulgar exchanges in Leora Barish and Henry Bean's screenplay.

And Catherine's surrounded by the splendor of London, the filmmakers focusing on the city's modern architectural baubies and framing the characters in gluttonous luxury.

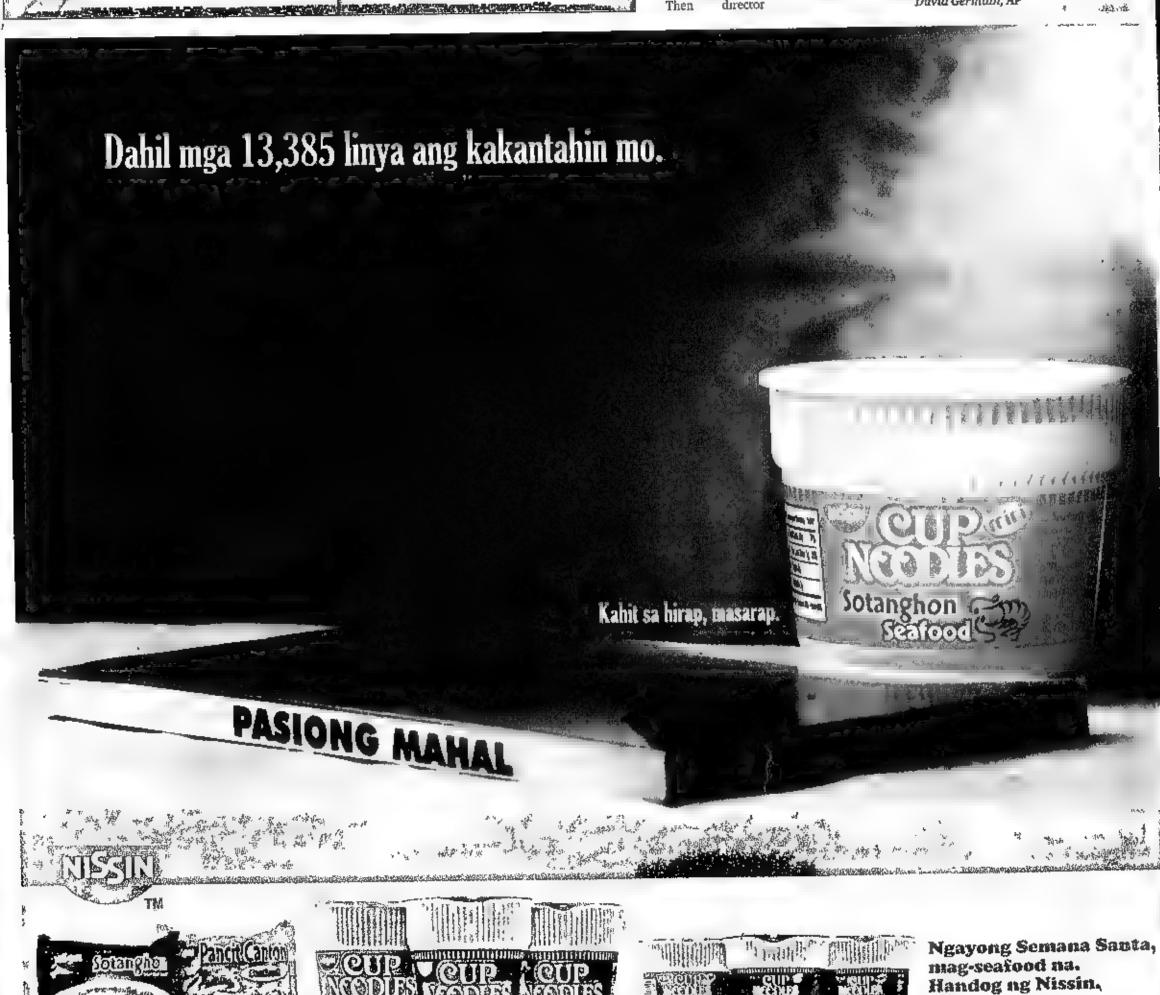
Stone again goes for broke as Catherine, playing the dragon lady with as much catty, black-hearted gusto as she did the first time. Yet while Stone's preserved well enough for the part physically, the thought that Catherme's still stuck in her pathetic little games of conquest all these years later is kind of sad David Germain, AP



**DANTES** and Catzado

Mon from

REVIEW



BEST COPY AVAILABL





in a love story where the lovers never meet.

# nents of Love' ve departure 'kilig' movies

By Paul Daza Contributor

GMA FILMS' NEW LOVE STORY, "MOMENTS OF LOVE," is a brave effort to inject something new into the typical Pinoy romantic movie. Often, such movies are content to show how a man and a woman meet, fall in love, bicker repeatedly, then finally unite for good as the theme song blares in the background. Stolen kisses, stolen glances and rifts are the staples of the familiar "kilig" movie, the most profitable genre in contemporary local cinema.

With "Moments of Love," the filmmakers step out of the moid. Director Mark Reyes works from a story by Annette Gozon-Abrogar and a screenplay by Gina Tagasa in which the lead characters, played by Dingdong Dantes and Iza Caizado, don't even meet because they live in different time periods. She's engaged to a heartless lout (Paolo Contis) in the year 1957, he's a loveless yupple in the year 2006. Aided by a thunderstorm and a magic telephone, Calzado and Dantes cross oceans of time to converse from the same provincial house.

### Risk worth it

The story evokes Hollywood flicks like "Somewhere In Time" and "Frequency." "Moments" also recalls a wonderful loca, movie directed by Rowell Santiago starring Judy Ann Santos, Wowie de Guzman, and the late Nida Bianca called "Luv Text," in which timé travel was a pivotal story element. But because that film was a box-office dud, it took years before another producer decided to again test non-commercial waters.

Apparently, the risk was worth it. "Moments Of Love" is reportedly a moderate hit. How granfying it must be for the film makers to know that viewers were challenged, not rumed off by the innovations.

Technically, "Moments" is a mixed bag. Many shots are beautifully lit and artfully composed, but marred by an armoy ing flicker that runs throughout the movie. Several close-ups of the leads are unforgivably out of focus. Audio quality is also wildly inconsistent. The actors' voices are easy to hear in some scenes but maudible in others. And once again, there is a ten dency to play the theme song too loudly during "eureka" mo-

The decades-spanning dialogue sounds right for the most part, but the screenplay is lazy in its approach to Iza Calzados wealthy fiance, played by Paolo Contis. He's written as a twodimensional creep with no redeeming traits, cut from the same cloth as Kate Winslet's wealthy fiance (played by Billy Zane) in "Titanic."

And couldn't the script be more inventive with the deviceused to prove to Iza that Dingdong is really from 2006? He happens upon a newspaper headline announcing President Ramon Magsaysay's 49th death anniversary. He tells her that Magsaysay's plane wil, go down the following day in her time (Would any local broadsheet bother to carry that as a batture story)?

### Best parts

This contrived exchange aside, the best parts are those that show Dantes and Caizado on the phone and repeatedly trying to meet under a tree beside a tranquil lake. Dantes has never been more handsome in a movie; Calzado, never more radiantly beautiful. Their performances are so convincing that not only do we accept the unusua, premise; we hope that fate will find a way to make the characters meet.

Praise is due Reyes for making this tracky story work for the most part. He overcomes the rough spots with his tangible passion for the plot, manifested in the camera movements and the production design's desarmingly nostaugic vibe.

What will probably trigger the most discussion among viewers is the ending, which is at once innovative and predictable. Suffice it to say that the always wonderful Gloria Romero is the mnovation, while the ending's predictability involves singer-actress Karylie, Dantes' real-life girlfriend. It tickles the mind to speculate on how much richer the conclusion might have been if the filmmakers hadn't given in to that peculiar Tagalog movie convention, the love team. The film's creators could have been just a little braver in that aspect.

Festive frozen delight

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit Contributor

THIS SEQUEL TO 2002'S MODERately entertaining animated hit "Ice Age" revisits familiar territory and further explores its generic but likeable characters. As with the first one, "Ice Age 2: The Meltdown" clicks with kids through well-timed use of physical comedy, but even adults can now get a kick out of some implied, more mature themes in the dialogue. The plot may be simple, but it's assuredly a timeless fable

The unlikely friendship between digitally rendered aminal misfits Manny the mammoth (voiced by Ray Romano), Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo), and Diego the saber-toothed tiger (Denis Leary) is less emphasized, but still prominently shown. The trio's angst and insecurines take center stage as they try to escape an

impending catastrophic flood. They join the exodus of beasts that leave the plains for safer ground, confident that they can reach a temporary haven in no time. That's easier said than done. The friends get sidetracked by different threats and nuisances along the

"Meltdown" is aesthetically busier than its predecessor. There are more colors, as the rapidly melting ice structures show a bigger glimpse of the world as it was. The character designs are also more detailed and imaginative, resulting in a more textured and more tangible menagerie. Defrosted or not, the

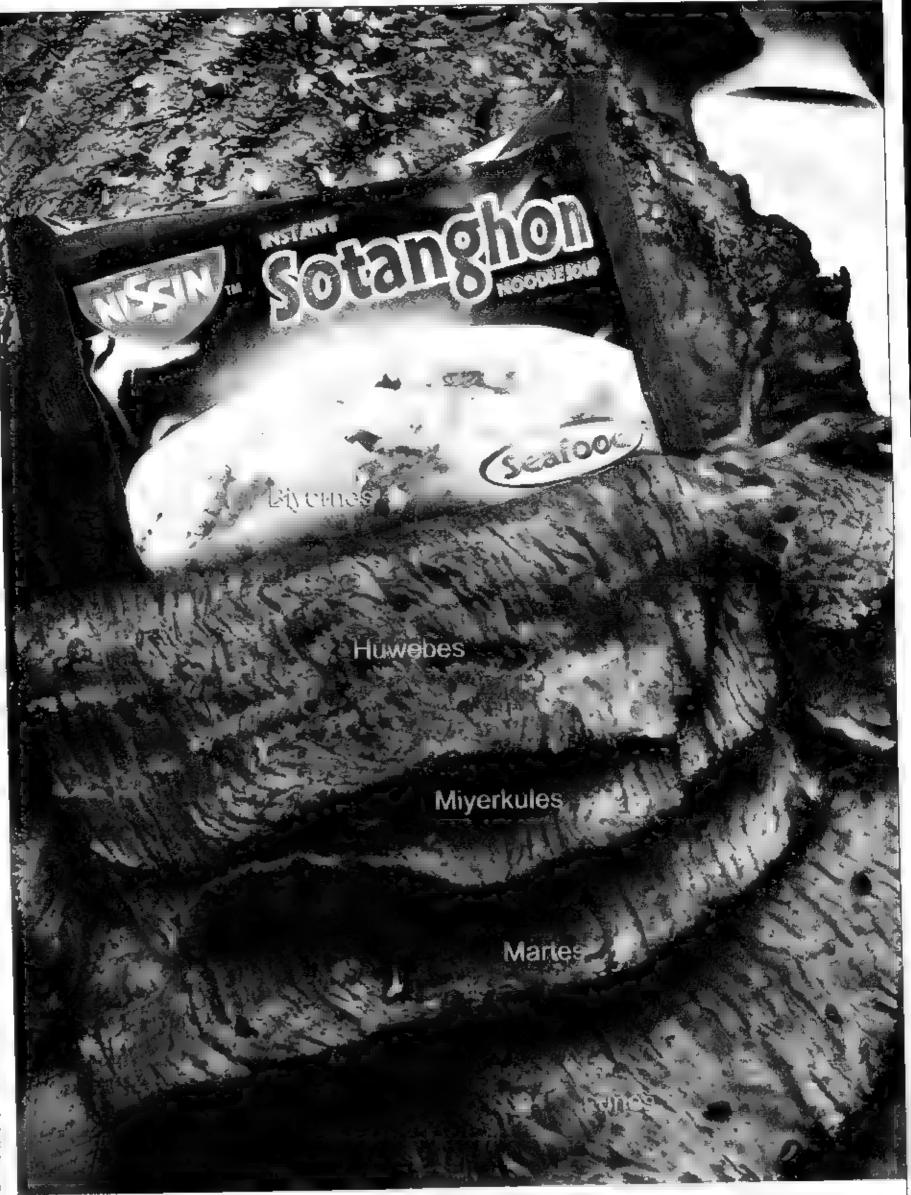
SID, Manny and Diego are back with more angst.

panoramic sights and artsy improvements are made alive by the distinct personalities of the animal characters, old and new That's why this endeavor can win the

grown-ups over. Children might scratch their heads while trying to figure out why the female mammoth Ellie (Queen Latifah) got angry with Manny. The male mammoth suggested, innocently, that he and his lady friend may need to repopulate their near-extinct

And despite lacking the token human element in the form of a human child (like in the previous installment), the movie has very recognizable heroes that kids can learn from and identify with. Among

them is the squirrellike creature Scrat (Chris Wedge) He's one cool critter.



Ngayong Semana Santa, mag-seafood na. Handog ng Nissin.







Redevall Center, Maked City

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ICE AGE 2

CREENHILLS CINEMAS

From page A2-I

Kabisote 2"), and Dominic Zapata ("Mulawin the Movie").

Peque Gailega's Blonde'-produced by Unitel, abot with a HD digital corners and transforced to film-has four citations. Another United release, "La Viso Lo-CA," ivas six.

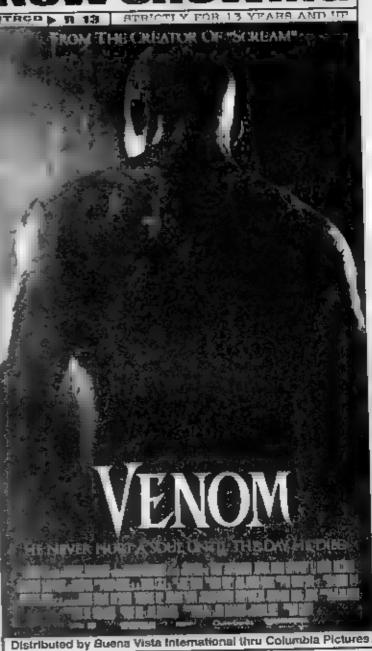
Also cited are the mainstream movies "Mulawin," seven; "Exodus," seven; "Bahay ni Lola" and "Ispiridista," three; "Enteng Kabisota," two; "Let the Love Begin," two.

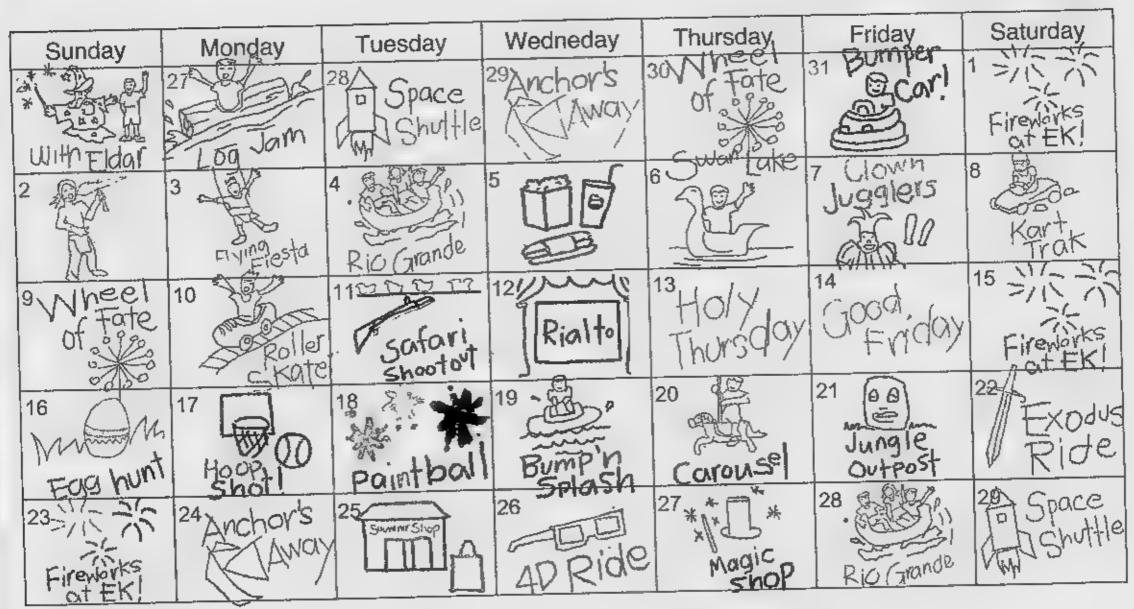


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# ENTERTAINMENT

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# Rex Smith reveals strong RP ties

By Marinel R. Cruz

'M SURPRISED THAT NOT everyone knows I've worked with Filipino musicians and, in fact, recorded my City. latest album here in Manila. The cover picture was shot at a local studio, too."

Singer-actor Rex Smith, who popularized the romanuc pop song from the 1970s, "Simply Jessie," was talking about his newest CD "Simply .. Rex." The album, under MCA-Universal

Records, has not been released in Asia.

"I love the people here. I appreciate the fact that I could just come over and immediately converse with all of you," said Smith during a gathering on Priday at the Gloria Jean's Coffees in Makati

Smith said he has been to the Philippines three times. His last visit was in 2000 when he recorded "Simply . Rex." Last night, he performed at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City Tonight, Smith will be at the Hard Rock Café in Makati

City.
"My son Brandon, 26, has come with me on this trip. He loves it here! He's

been to Boracay. Now, he's off to Greenhills Mall to get some pearls," Smith added, smiling.

The singer-actor said plans of returning here yet again and touring the rest of Asia are already in the works. "I want to introduce to the people here some of my Broadway work. I've been part of the theater industry for 25 years now. People here may not be aware of it, but the main thrust of my career has long been in the-

Smith made his Broadway debut as Danny Zuko in "Grease!" He played Frederick in "The Pirates of Penzance" and starred in its film adaptation. He was also

in "The Human Comedy" "Grand Hotel,"
"The Scarlet Pimpernel" and "Annie Get Your Gun."

Smith also starred in Lincoln Center's "Anything Goes," The Kennedy Center's "West Side Story," and the Canadian production of "Sunset Boulevard." He toured with the production of Joseph...," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Godspell" and "They're Playing Our Song."

How much of the songs in your 10track album did you write yoursel??

"Heart Beat," Jessie Will You Love Me?," "Run with the Angels," "Don't





USA comforts her friend Paris. Huh?

### Early favorite leaves 'Idol'

By Kathryn L. Reyes

TM ONLY 16. THIS CAN'T BE THE END OF the road for me. It's just the beginning."

And so, gracefully, Lisa Tucker, an early judges' favorite this season, left "American

She had sung first 'Idol' Kelly Clarkson's "Because of You" on Tuesday (Wednesday in

Judge Simon Cowell deemed the song too

for ner voice. In an exclusive interview with inquirer Entertainment a day after she was booted, Lisa said she had

watched the replay of her performance and INQUIRER was quite satisfied with **EXCLUSIVE** it. "I honestly don't think anything went wrong "

Were you surprised to land in the bottom three for the third time this week?

Not at all. I was prepared for anything, I wasn't any more surprised than I was the first

Why did you choose that song?

I also considered singing an Alicia Keys, But I just wanted to sing a real "singer" song.

What did you say to Paris (Bennett), who was reduced to tears by the results?

We're roommates, we're really close. I just reminded her of the tour, when we'd be together again. ("Al's" Top 10 go on a US tour after every season.)

No rivalry at all between you and Paris? None whatsoever All the contestants were all like brothers and sisters.

Simon earlier said you were the best 16year-old they ever had, did you feel any

I'm a very optimistic person, I didn't feel the pressured [but] it meant so much to me knowing that Simon said that.

Do the contestants consult each other on which song is best for whom? Yes, we do.

Mandisa is nicknamed "Mandiva," Kevin was "Chicken Little." Would it have helped if you had a nickname, too, for the extra at-

Yes, definitely. I might have wanted to be nicknamed "Mighty Tuck."

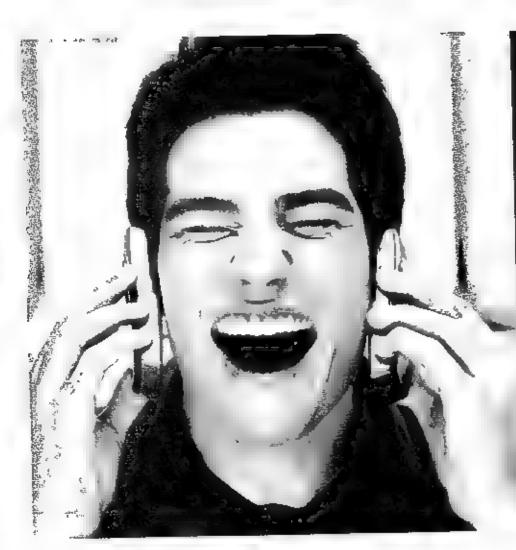
Now that you are out of the competition,

who will you vote for and why? I am not picking up that phone because it's really tough to choose.

What is the best and the worst part about being on "American Idol"?

The best part is just being able to perform. On the downside, it kind of takes you away from ... it interrupts your life but it is well worth the interruption.

('American Idol" goes on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays—6 p.m. direct via satellite, 8 p.m. replays, 11:30 p.m. primetime, ABC 5 also broadcasts on the same days at 10 p.m.)



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# ENTERTAI

### Mon David does the

WHEN BOXING CHAMP MANNY Pacquiao came home after winming big in the United States, he was konized like a national hero.

Now that Mon David has flown in (Apri. 1) from London after topping the international jazzfest recently held there, he will be similarly feted and thanked for putting the Philippines on the world map in the field of music?

What do you think?

We hope that government and entertainment executives do pian a big homecoming for Mon, because we'd ake to believe that, in their estimation, the arts are at least as unportant to the country as sports. What do you think?

Can you see it? Mon, being rained on by confetti as his parade makes its slow way up Ayala Avenue, thousands of people's cheers ringing in his ears? Mon, being given a reception at

Maiacañang Palace, after which a ballroom full of top government official's enjoy a jazz concert featuring him and the country's best performing aitists?

What do you think? Then, Mon becomes the special guest on a host of TV shows, with

VIEWFINDER!

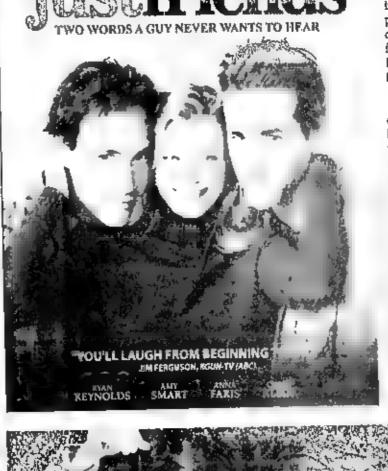
Nestor U. Torre

his victory being held spiring example for asp who similarly want to ceptional singers beyo of commercial compro-

After which Mon is show of his own, an SR. ing concert at Araneta Alsw Theater, and a ne immortanze his victory.

What do you think? While we're lauding spectacular musical fewe'd also like to cite jovely wife And for ber derfu, loving parents.

We've had the disure of giving the and talented daugi her first lead role (n: mus.car; : -\*B;rh Caysasay"), and sh. testament to their o' ceptional "talent":



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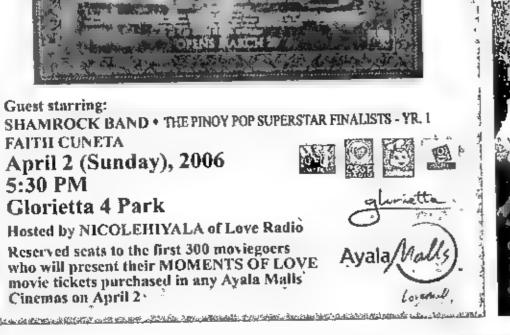


### Rex Smith reve

Mean Nothing at All" and "Too Late Now," which is a live record ing of my performance at the Carnegie Hall. Tessie, Will You Love Me?" is a sequel to "Simply Jessie "

Are you aware that your song "Simply Jessie" is still being played on local radio?

Yes. I appreciate that Steve (O'Neal, producer of Smith's concerts) said I'm one of the youngest artists he brought here. You see, I'm 50. I'm not that young, but I guess it's my youthful approach to life that makes me look young. That's the great secret About a month ago, I visited my dentist to have a filling replaced. He wouldn't believe me when I



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Guest starring:

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Winners have been notified via telephone call and registered mail. Elifonnia Calluckians Official and

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Mon for his in London, m and his g such wort-

unct pleabeautifu ter Nicole the recent η; ng is a proud vanually ex-

Nicole is as talented and as good a person as her mom and

Performance awards are great, but the best "trophies" are the children who do us proud by turning out to be good and giving human

We're sure Mon and Ann agree.

Finally, Mon deserves special praise for winning his international award when he's already a golden boy Success may take its time coming to the deserving, but it comes.

We trust that Mon's sterling example will inspire the many mature people out there who have been waiting for recognition to come their

Don't lose heart, Easy street could be just around the corner.

### Movies on TV

TODAY on Cinemax, 7:25 p.m., The Adventures of Brisco County Jr. Tomorrow 3 at 8:25 a.m., "Reality Bites," 3:45 p.m., "The Great Race." April 4 at 6 a.m., "Born Yesterday." 4:55 p.m., "Wyatt Earp."

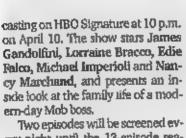
Today on HBO, 11:15 a.m., "Stripes." 4:30 p.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 8 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2" April 3 at 11:15 a.m., on April 10. The show stars James Gandolfini, Lorraine Bracco, Edie em-day Mob boss.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006

ery night until the 13-episode season ends, and there will be a weekend marathon on April 22 and 23 starting 1 p.m., also on HBO signa-

toon-come to life," "Lazy Town," premiered on Nicklelodeon last month, delivering action, comedy and a fresh blast of youthful energy. Aimed at preschoolers, the show is about an optimistic 8-year-old named Stephanie, who comes to live in LazyTown and meets a zany mix of people, including the world's

Fortunately, LazyTown is under the watchful eye of Sportacus, a super-fit hero who helps the towns-



MON DAVID

"Out of Africa." 12:10 a.m., "Surviving Picasso." April 4 at 4;15 p.m., "Catch-22." 6:15 p.m., "Biloxi

### On CNN

"CNN Connects: The Price of Progress" airs tonight at 10 and April 5 at 10 p.m. "Talk Asia" is telecast today at 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. "CNN Today" airs M.F. April 3-7, at 7 and 10:30 a.m.

### The Sopranos'

THE FIRST season of the Emmy award-winning series, "The So-pranos," will start tele-

### als strong RP ties

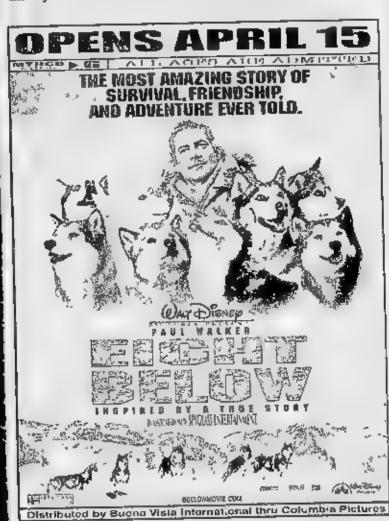
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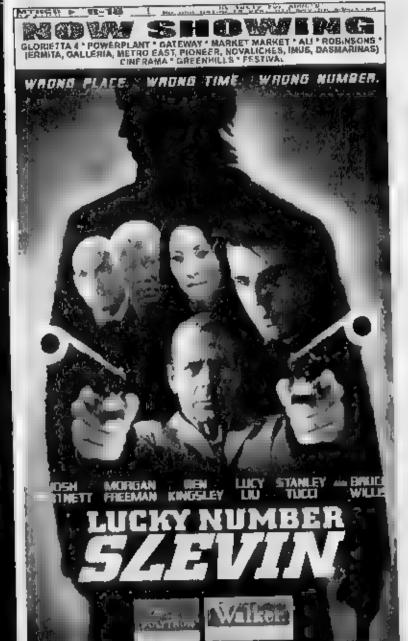
than anybody how old you are. I also attribute that to my Broadway work. It has kept me in shape.

I'm part Cree native American Indian and part Cherokee. I thank their lives for the freedom I'm enthe native blood in me gives me longevity. I really believe that

What makes the Philippines special to you?

told him my age. And you'd think My father was a naval aviator that a dentist would know more during the World War II and he was in the battle in Leyte Gulf. Being here reminds me that I am proof positive of why those men and women in World War II gave joying right now. Had a bullet or bayonet gone another way, I wouldn't be here. The song "From Here to Eternity" as a tribute to my





# ture." LazyTown "SPECTACULAR jaziest super-villain, Robbie Rotten people battle Robbie's schemes. ela

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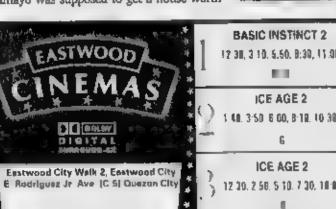
ENTERTAINMENT

ROUNDUP

Upgraded prize

DELFIN LEE IS THE BIG BOSS OF GLOBE Asiatique Realty Holding Corporation who donated the house won by Nene Tamayo on the first edition of "Pincy Big Brother."

Tamayo was supposed to get a house worth



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P1 million. But guess what? She was instead given a P2.5 million house, fully furnished.

Lee had everything to do with it. "We liked Nene," he said. "She's a very nice person. So I decided to give her a bigger-house in St. Monique Valais (subdivision, in Binangonan, Rizal). The homeowners love her."

Globe Asiatique is also donating a house and lot to the winner of "PBB Celebrity Edition."

Paolo & Suzy's 3rd

THE THIRD DAUGHTER OF PAOLO ABRERA and Suzy Entrata was born on Monday, March 27. The ecstatic parents announced they were naming her Maria Antonella. She weighed in at five pounds, 15 ounces. "Small but so cute!"



Suzy chirped.

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RPN USA.

Viva films in

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nications Corporation

has announced that its

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said Vicente Del

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MATT LeBlanc with

LOS ANGELES-

Matt LeBlanc has filed

for divorce from his

wife, citing irreconcil-

able differences, but

his publicist says the

two remain "friends."

"Priends" TV star filed

papers in Superior

Court on Thursday to

dissolve his three-year

marriage to Melissa

LeBlanc, according to

documents obtained

Tonight, The couple

amicable," LeBianc's

publicist, Joe Libonati,

"The dissolution is

separated Jan. 1.

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said Thursday The pair married in

celebrity-studded wedding in Hawali in 2003. AP

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HOT TRIO on the dancefloor: Dante Basco (right) with Elijah Kelley (left) and Jenna Dewan.

# Banderas all praise for Fil-Am co-star

LOS ANGELES—ANTONIO BANDERAS IS ail praise for Dante Basco, his Fil-Am co-star in the movie "Take the Lead."

Will Martin Company of the same of the same of

Dante plays one of the high school students who learn ballroom dancing from Aixonio's character. "Take the Lead" is based on the inspiring true story of a professional dancer, Pierre Dulaine, who volunteered to teach in a New York public school. Pierre's saga to teach waltz to elementary school kids was featured in the acclaimed hit documentary, "Mad Hot Ballroom." In the feature film version, the setting was changed to a high school and hip-hop moves were fused into the ballroom dance steps to broaden the movie's

was how he responded when asked about the actor who earlier starred in "The Debut," a Fil-Am movie. "First of ail, Dante is a very good actor. He's a very positive person to work with. He was very helpful, not only in front of the camera but also in all the rehearsals. Because Dante is a little bit more mature than the rest of the kids, he was the guy who brought the team together. His pur-

pose was to bind everybody. He did a great job. For me, looking at Dante and at all of those kids was like seeing a reflection of myself years ago. I could see wisdom in Dante's eyes, which I saw in my eyes when I looked in the murror 26 years ago, as I started in this profession. It was a beautiful experience to work with Dante and to recognize myself in some way."

Antonio added that his experience with the young cast would definitely help h.m in his next projects; "[T] be in two movies in which I have to be with very young actors. Take the Lead' was almost like a preparation on how to deal with a group of kids who are way more energetic than me. I have to find my rhythm and pulse with these young actors."

On hearing about "Zorro's" two thumbs up endorsement of him, Dante, according to his friend Winston Emano, joked that it was because ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

he made the Spanish actor guilty about

Spain's colonization of the Philippines. Yaya DaCosta, who appears as LaRhette in "Take the Lead" and whose TV credits include "America's Next Top Model," was just as effusive about Dante at the press con: "I met In our group's press con with Antonio, here Dante for the first time at the lobby of the hotel that we were staying in. I thought I knew him. You know how sometimes you see a person and you forget where you saw that person before? Dante told me, no, I don't think we've met. But suddenly, I remembered—I had this unage of Rufio from 'Hook.' He was really

down to earth and fun to work with." The object of all this praise is an active





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# Banderas all praise for Fil-Am co-star

ty here in LA, where "Take the Lead posters showing him and co-star Jenna Dewon (Sasha) are plastered all over. "It's a trip," the actor told me via e-mail about seeing his image on the streets. Dante, Jenna and Elijah Kelley (Danjou) make up a smoking hot trio in a tango/hiphop number during the film's finaie.

We last saw Dante at the screening of "Our Time is Up." the Oscar-nominated short film produced by Pia Clemente, who was the associate producer of

"The Debut," his movie with Ed- Lead." His talent for dancing (he How do you feel about the die Garcia, Tirso Cruz and Gina Alajar

We also bumped into Dante several times at the Sundance Film Festival last January. At the reception for Asian Pacific filmmakers participating in the fest, Dante was the one whom the "Ang Pagdadalaga nı (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros" contingent-director Auraeus Solito, producer Raymond Lee and scriptwriter Michiko Yamarnoto-wanted to have pic-

Dante stands out in "Take the and a hip-hop rap artist.

also actors, started very young in the biz as break dancers) and acting make him perfect for the movie. Qualities that are quickly apparent when you meet Dante m person-confidence and a smile that lights up the room-are captured in the film.

Since appearing as Rufio, who leads the Lost Boys in Steven Spielberg's "Hook," the "mula-hyphenated performer has pursued various projects. He is also a poet (he hosts open mike poetry readings)

> How did you land this part?

> I went through the full audition process I read the script, met with the director and all that It's the actor's life-constant meetings and proving yourself.

They must have held dance auditions as well. What numbers did you perform?

Dancing was abso-Intely a key part of st. The final audition was a marathon-like three-hour dance audition where we rearmed ballroom nuances and danced tango and hip-hop!

and his three brothers, who are posters all over LA? And your reaction when you first saw

It's real special to me and surreal at the same time. The producers told us that our image best conveyed the energy of the picture and captured what the film was all about. Just driving around town on my motorcycle-my new hobby and main mode of transport-and seeing posters of my self was a trip.

Filipmos know all the ballroom staples---cha-cha, merengue, waltz and foxtrot. Did you, like many Fil-Am kids. grow up watching your parents or grandparents do these bailroom dances?

In my house and neighborhood, we all cha-cha'd and yes, I've gotten much better since my first movie cha-cha in "The De but." It didn't take very long for me to fall in love with them all.

Of all those, which one do you enjoy most?

I have a standout tango piece in the film, but there's something very elegant about the waitz. It's such a class c romantic dance and I certainly learned to appreciate

You were quoted in the production notes as saying that you started acting because of John Travolta in "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever."

When I was a lod, before Michael Jackson's time, Travolta was the baddest dancer on the face of the earth. His every move ment, his grace. he was just the epitome of coo. in movement and form Dancing was my first love and now, for the first time-final-.yl-in my 24-year career as an actor, I get to really dance in a movie.

As a young boy, you worked with Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman and Steven Spielberg in "Hook." What do you remember most about each of them?

First and foremost, they are algenrases and constant sources of inspiration to me professionally. Robin was extremely generous in time and in sharing. We taiked at length about poetry. It was through these sessions that he in spired me to first write verse Dustin? No one has pushed me harder, encouraged me further as a co-star than Dustin. After my particularly challenging death scene, he screamed at the top his lungs, "Kid, you're the shir" and led the crew in sustained applause. He totally validated me And Steven? Watching him direct was what I imagine would be had watching Mozart conduct a sym phony. You just know that you are in the presence of greatness.

What was your own experience as a high school student? Were you ever in detention? Did you dance often in school shows-or break into impromptu break dance exhibitions?

Yeah, I always got down I fact, I still do. If you hang out n the right spots in LA, you issi might catch me. Hahaha! i at tended Paramount H gh and Or ange County High School of the Arts, I got into the same trouble that most young boys do har dance was always a major outlet i battled the best of them!

Were you in triangles on or off campus, just like in the film? Uhmm. no comment

Did you have somebody like Pierre Dulaine who inspired you in dance or in any other aspect of your life?

My acting coach for pritty years, Gloria Gifford, had an mense impact on my life as art.st. She's the closest I've ha it is a real-life Pierre Duraine.

How intense were the dance rehearsals for the movie?

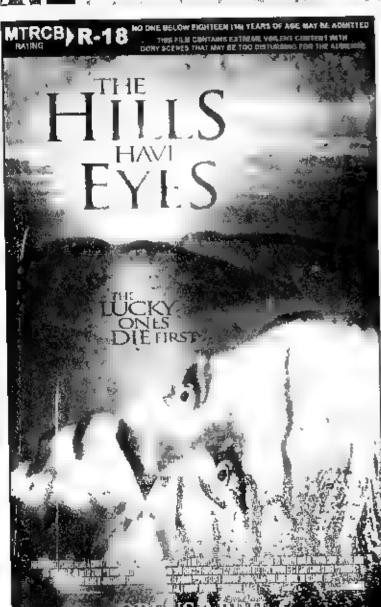
Crazy intensel Four wee straight dancing from 10 a.m. p.m., Monday to Friday wit water breaks. Okay, the last p an exaggeration but it was intense.

If you and Antonio Bandevas had a tango dence-off, who would win?

Hmmm... we dou't know to sure] but I think I would give by a a run for his money.

break dance? Huge difference. In that with gory, I have him. No question

Can he beat you in hip-hop and





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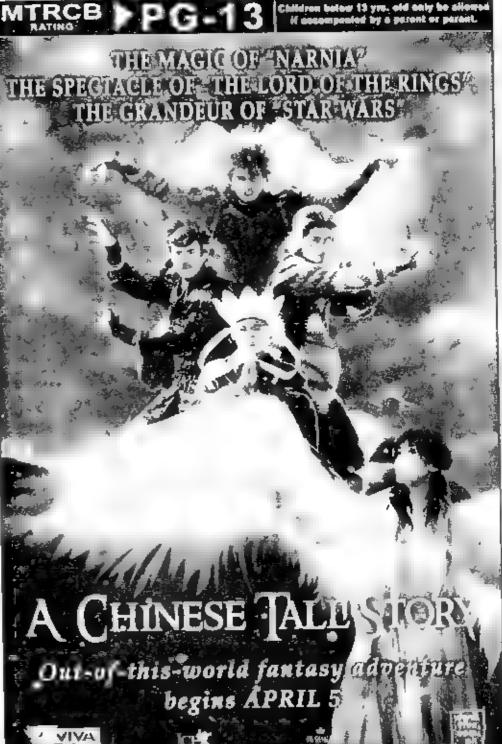
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### VMENT

After worlding with Antonio, how has your initial perception

of him changed? He's simply a great person-artistically, professionally, socially. Working with him only made me think more highly of him. He's a pure gem-an amazing artist and a loving human bemg.

Who is hotter-Yaya DaCosta or Jenna Dewan?

You'd be lucky either way ... next question.

You play a Latino youth named Ramos. Do you appreciate this aspect of your Filipino heritage that somehow allows you the flexibility to play a Latino?

I'm an actor, first and foremost. As such, I do what I can. rynepates\_5585@yahoo.com.) But in my heart, Ramos is Pinoy

Is Darryl Reyes, who is also in the cast, Filipino-American?

He is Fupino-Canadian actually. He's a good kid, great dancer, especially popping (the unique West Coast-originated form of street dancing) We battled some kids together and the kid can get down and boy does he love the funk [that's music]!

Did you get to meet members of the Filipino community while filming in Toronto?

Not as many as 1 would have lked or hoped.

how about it-Dante Basco in "Dancing with the Stars"?

1 don't think it would be fair Remember, dancing was my first love.

Poet Dancer Actor. Hsp-hop/rap artist. Voice talent for Nickelodeon's ammated "Avatar

The Last Airbender" and Disney's "American Dragon: Jake Long." Which one do you enjoy most?

It all comes from the same core as an artist: the search for truth, your own truth. I'm just thankful that I'm as fortunate as I have been. I try to work harder than everyone else.

What's next?

Whatever the road brings. Hopefully, that will include more challenging, historystereotype-busting making, roles in fi.m, TV, dance, music, whatever. And the hope that those will include co...aboration with more Pinoys

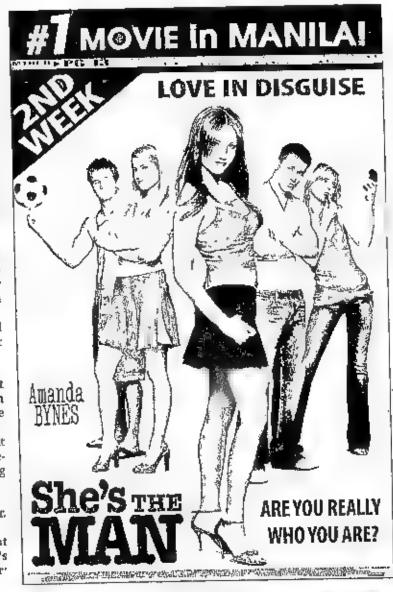
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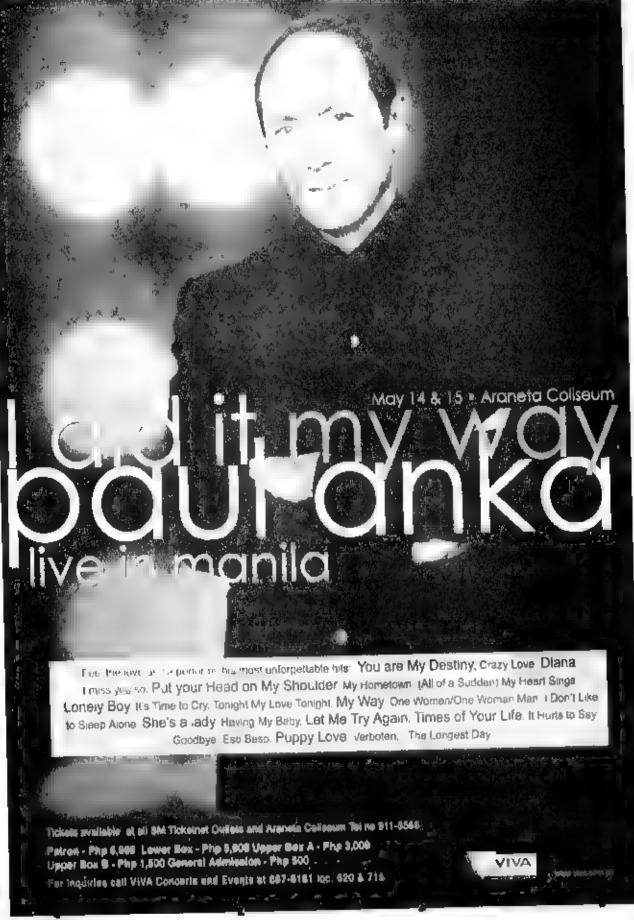
**DANTE Basco** (second from right) with Antonio Banderas and the rest of "Take the Lead" cast.



In theaters APRIL







OS ANGELES-"I'M JUST A simple girl with a Serbian accent, a Russian-sounding name and American attitude," disclosed the ultra-beautiful, ultrasexy model-turned-actress Milla Jovovich when we interviewed . her at a five-star hotel here.

The 30-year-old stunner with long legs, green eyes, short flyaway bob and sparkling smile was very EXCLUSIVE comfy and relaxed. She looked sharp and even more statuesque (at 5'8") in one of her own cre-

ations from her Jovovich-Hawk Jashion line a gray blazer, pink blouse and denim pants

With hardly any makeup, Milla's beauty and charm, shone through nonetheless. Before she became an actress-businesswoman, she was a spokesperson for l'Oreal. She has remained perky, down-to-earth, uninhibited. And funny

actors, including Jack Nicholson, During our interview, she punctuated her hilarious anecdotes stories with a gruff sort of laughter that was so endearing

After almost every sentence, she asked, "Do you know what I mean?" by way of emphasizing a point.

At one point, she went demonstrated to the roomful of media people the sword choreography she learned for her latest movie "Ultraviolet," where she plays Violet or "V," member of a vampire-like subculture of humans called Hemophages.

INQUIRER

"I like doing Violet because she reminds me of myself," Milla said. "She is a go-getter, very aggressive like the modern woman who needs to do her job. Then, she realizes she also wants to have a

family. I love kids and I always get along with juds. So when Violet struck this immediate bond with this kid Six (portrayed by Cameron Bright), I could relate to that."

Written and directed by Kurt Wimmer ("The Recrust," "The Thomas Crown Affair"), "Ultraviolet" is a sci-fi movie from Columbia Pictures, about the battle of the Hemophages against a government that is afraid of their



Wimmer admitted in another interview that he had Milia in mind when he wrote the story. He explained, "She has the talent, beauty and athletic ability integral to praying such a complex, fascinating and fun character."

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006

After her memorable appearances in the action packed thriller "Resident Evil," and Resident Evil: Apocalypse," Mills said she did not mind her new label. "A girl who loves to kick ass. I do not mind being in the group of Angelina Jolie, Charlize Theron and the like. I ove martial axts. I do most of my stunts and l practice eight to mine hours a day. When I go back to my hotel room, I continue practicing by myself. It's like practicing for the O.ympict.\*

Born to a Russian stage actress, Galina lovovich, and a Serbian pediatrician, Milla became one of Revion's "Most Beautiful. Women in the World" at age 12. She has graced the covers of more than 150 internaonal magazines and has been dubbed by several magazines as one of the "Sexiest Women in the World" or one of the "Hottest Celebrities."

The 35-22-33 supermodel-actress conessed, though, "Being beautiful is not a problem for me in my work. My problem is my name-Jovovich! People say, 'Oh it's a foreign sounding name, let's make her an alien!"

### Mom aghast

Mills narrated how she once attempted to drop her last name and just use her first name but my father is this barbarian dude who rold me (in a gruff voice) 'I will disown you!' I rold him, You will disown me from what?' As a little girl, that was really scary."

As for her "alien roles," her mother used to rell her, "You always look weird in your movies! Why can't you look beautiful? Why do you have to always look like an alten?"

Mills revesied, "I used to do the emotional dramas so when this role came along of Violet, I was excited. I did not realize that I'd have to rehearse and practice more than eight hours a day! Before, I just sat and internal ized, I d,d not train all day, I think I'm the kind of person who needs to be inspired and creative all the time."

One of her creative passions right now is Jovovich-Hawk, which she set up last year with her friend of 13 years, model Carmen Hawk. They first opened a showroom in New York City's Greenwich Village last September and now their products are found at Fred Segal in LA, or can be ordered from Creature Entertainment.

"I love drawing, sketching dresses," Milla confessed. "Carmen and I have been designing cocktail dresses, blazers, mini skirts and the like."

Actress, supermodel, fashion designer, and businesswoman -- what else does Milla want

on her almost full plate? She smiled, touched the big ring on her finger, and replied, "A family, a kid, a man who will take care of me "

### Less of Ruffa...

(molichild@hotmail.com) 844 Crittenden St. NE Washington DC

I am bothered that most Filipinos seem to have forgotten about Ruffa Gutierrez's participation in the Manila Film Festival scam years ago. Now you are making her appear like a philanthropist. A lot of people, me included, think Filipinos deserve an apology from her for what she did in that festival along with Lolit Solis. At least Lolit was brave enough to eventually own up to her mistake. Please let us not have short memo-

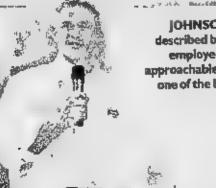
### ...more of NUTI

Prom Maria Lagdameo (miag-dameo@milbank.com), 3000 El Camino Real, 5 Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA:

We should have more Nestor Torres His boob-tube booboos series cracks me up. When I moved to the US 20 years ago, I met a couple of Filipinos who wanted to make an impression on me by speaking in English entirely. They sounded like the persons in Nestor's column. always ended up telling them, "lagalugin ninyo na lang at baka magka-intindihan pa tayo."



SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006



JOHNSON is described by his employees as approachable and one of the boys.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Chevron CEO learns to deal with different folks from hauling salmon and herring in his youth

By Tina Arceo-Dumbao

THIS DAY, RANDY H. Johnson, country chair and general manager for retail and marketing of Chevron Philippines. Inc., can still easily tell fish apart.

This is one of the skills he picked up when he spent the summers of his high school and university years in the late 1970s to the early 1980s working in a large, over 100-footlong fishing boat that harvested salmon and herring from the cold waters of his native

Johnson tells the Inquires that for a while there, he thought fish-

RANDY JOHNSON, country chair and general manager of

ing was going to be his What's not to like?

He was earning a handsome C\$100 a day for staying out at sea for weeks at a time and being one with the great

At the same time, he was working with some really great people," among them Norwegians who valued the simple life and hard

"The Norwegians are unbelievable workers," Johnson says, "they would work straight for days on just a few

hours of sleep." "If you don't work as hard, they won't take

you on the next trip," he says. That would have been tragic for the young Johnson who needed the extra money from heloing haul in hundreds of kilograms of fish from the abundant fishing grounds of Canada partly to finance his more expensive athletic

pursuits, such as skring. "I enjoyed the sport, but skiing requires money," Johnson says, "I had to earn the riloney myself because my parents were not going

Being of Norwegian descent himself, he shared the same passion for hard work that endeared him to his exacting bosses.

This enabled Johnson to go on all the trips he signed up for, and what he earned was more than enough to cover his skiing

The son of Vancouver, British Columbia recalls that during that time he was earning C\$100 a day, a good pair of Jeans cost only C\$10 each.

The financial prospects of the fishing world were in fact so enticing that Johnson had to decide in 1982 whether to make a career out of it or put his degree in business from the Simon Praser University to good

His Norwegian bosses would have been more than happy to make the lean, broad shouldered six-footer a permanent part of their crew, but Johnson eventually decided to hang up his longshoreman's cap and enter the

world of business. He joined the finance department of Chevron Canada Limited and promptly took a

massive pay cut. The pay eventually caught up as he moved up through a number of positions in finance and marketing in the Chevron group, including retail manager of Chevron

Canada Limited Johnson's next major break came when Chevron and Texaco merged operations, requiring the formation of a global marketing transformation team.

Johnson became part of that Chevron Texaco team that was tasked with transforming the Chevron, Texaco and Caltex operations into a seamless, functional organizetion. {Caltex Philippines was renamed Chevron aithough the stations retained the brand Caltex]

As he moved up, he realized that he got more out of his fishing experience than muscles in his arms and an enduring love affair

with the open sea. Johnson says those years taught him how to effectively deal with different kinds of people with different backgrounds.

Fishing, he adds, was also about working

together toward a single goal. Before, it was to get the most fish. This time around, it was to achieve Chevron's goal to become the preferred brand in the highlycompetitive petroleum distribution industry.

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CHNSON talls a crewi

Caltex retailers, -

media about the benefits

of Caltex with Techron

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# Planting RP's flag on foreign shores

By Arny R. Remo

PLANTING THE COUNTRY'S flag on foreign shores has long been successfully done by numerous wholly-owned Filipino com-

And a lot of these reputable brands such as RFM, Universal Robina Corp., Goldilocks and Mama Sita, have begun seeing the brighter side of going mainstream with their businesses abroad

At the recent Good News Kapıhan forum held at the Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt, Makati, these companies shared their insights on such ventures.

### Universal Robina Corp.

Universal Robina Corp., one of the largest packaged food companies in the country, is now setting its sights on Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand as its priority export markets for its biscuits and snacks, and possibly, its C2 beverage.

"URC has this natural thirst to expand to different markets as a major brand," explained Carlo Villaraza, regional export manag-

Villaraza expects URC exports to hit \$20 million this year, a 40percent jump from last year's fig-

Aside from its 12 manufacturing plants in the country, URC currently has on-the-ground operations in several Asian markets, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Viemam. Internationally, URC has five manufacturing facilities and 13 warehouses.



VILLARAZA

This, according to Villaraza, is URC's entry tool to becoming a dominant player in the Asian market and eventually, in the in-

ternational arena. "We're taking baby steps—we start at becoming a major player in Asia with our line of snack foods, cup noodles, biscuits, candies and chocolates, to name a few," said Villaraza.

One of the major challenges in breaking into the mainstream. however, is establishing brand

Villaraza explained that URC encountered several companies that wanted to get URC as a suppher-which means that URC products will be marketed and sold under a different brand

"But we stuck to our guns. Our vision is to globalize the Jack & Jill brand. We are starting with countries nearby that are strategic," Villaraza said

To date, URC is exporting to more than 40 countries, with its mivestments continuing to demonstrate strong growth momentum particularly in Asian

countries through its line of potato chips, wafer and salty snacks.

"With competitive pricing and ample market knowledge, we think our goal of becoming one of the biggest players in Asia may not be too far ahead," added Vil-

### Goldilocks

Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc., the country's leading bakeshop, is setting its sights on strategic markets in Asia within the next few years as part of its expansion pro-

We wanted to plant the Philippine flag abroad in terms of cuisine that is uniquely Filipino," said Goldilocks public relations consultant Allan German.

In the next two years, Goldilocks is eyeing Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand as potential markets.

Goldilocks USA, an affiliate of Goldilocks, meanwhile, plans to set up a new commissary on the East Coast of the United States to add to its existing commissary in California.

The commissary may cost roughly \$1 million," said corporate communications manager Arle Delos Santos.

Goldilocks USA runs 17 branches, 16 in the United States and one in Vancouver, Canada.

Delos Santos also saxó Goldilocks was adding between 15 and 20 branches this year, including one in Naga City, where the founders of Goldilocks are based. To date, Goldilocks operates 192 branches nationwide.

Goldalocks traces its roots to a simple one-door apartment in a two-story structure at 2300 Pasong Tamo Street in Makan.

The founders had a simple vision: To produce high-quality, high-value, but affordable products. And this has guided every aspect of the Goldilocks business for 40 years.

Marigold Commodities Corp., MADARANG



manufacturer of the Mama Sita's line of mixes and sauces, started to market its products to the overseas market as early as 1981, a year after it was founded.

"We cater all over the world from US, Europe, South Africa, Israel to Middle East-wherever there are Filipmos," said Mama Sita's Ramon Reyes.

Catering to overseas Filipinos seemed like a natural move for them back then.

"It costs a lot to promote products locally, given so many existing brands and similar products, so we just concentrated on overseas Filipmos," said Reyes.

And it worked on their favor, he added, because Filipinos, once they like your product,

they usually stick with it and has slowly evolved to a multirecommend it to family and friends—especially for overseas Filipinos, who bring Mama Sita products to various parts of the world.

Mama Sita found a breakthrough in the US market in 1981 and its product line (such marinades and sauces) has since been expanded to include more mainstream products which are now widely exported to different parts of the world.

Last year, Mama Sita experienced a 10 percent growth from the previous year, translating roughly to \$5 million in sales.

Reyes said that Mama Sita is now eyeing on further tapping the mainstream local and international markets with its line of mixes and sauces through a joint venture with a Hong Kong investment company.

He added that the capital firm tapped Mama Sita to produce a particular product line, which will be marketed still under the Mama Sita brand name.

In the Philippines, Mama Sita's products have been made available nationwide.

"Now we have become more aggressive in promoting and selling Mama Sita products in the country," said Reyes.

### RFM Corp.

Although currently the second largest food and beverage conglomerate in the country, RFM Corp. is but relatively a new player in the export business.

"RFM is homegrown and proudly Filipino and we have, for almost 50 years, been a strong player in the domestic market," said RFM vice president linelda Madarang.

Madarang said RFM's growth today primarily came from expansions, acquisitions and focus on the domestic market, which they have aggressively done in Guam.

in South East Asia in 1957, RFM rope and Japan.

company enterprise managing a chain of branded products that are highly visible in the consumer market today.

Currently, RFM is also looking at growing its export business.

"Aside from our existing export business, we want to expand it further by tapping the \$1.5-bilmarket," said lion halal Madarang.

Halal refers to food that Muslim dietary laws allow Muslims to

RFM's export products include mixes under its White King flour brand, such as bibingka, puto mix, and its Selecta Moo chocolate milk brand.



Madarang said RFM expected to boost export sales this year to around \$7 million from \$3.4 mi-Lon last year

The said increase in volume of mass market products such as juices and milk, and the revitalization of its tropical juice and ice cream brands for the export market, is expected to propel growth for the company this

To date, RFM exports products to 35 countries, the bulk of which goes to the United States of America, Canada, Hawaii and

It also exports to the Middle Prom being the first flour mill East, Pacific Islands, India, Eu-

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CONSISTENG OF (7) SECURITY BANK VAULT, MONEY COUNTER MACHINE, COMPUTERS, MANUAL / ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS, OFFICE DESKS, TABLES.
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ON-SITE ADDRESS REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES

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Mama Sita



# Development of wind power set

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY LOGICS Inc., a joint venture between Energy Logics of Canada and Transnational Diversified Corp. is set to develop 100 MW of wind power in the country with initial exploration in Zambales, Cavite and llocos Norte.

Wind power is among several new and renewable energy (NRE) source development program of the DOE anchored in its commitment to provide greater opportunities to the underprivileged. Further, EO 462 encourages private sector participation in the exploration, development, utilization and commercialization of ocean, solar and wind energy resources for power generation and other energy uses.

"We are setting our sites towards more sustainable sources of energy to reach the greater ma-



(FROM laft) Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, Marco X. Delgado, Millicent Sim-Asuncion and Sonny Coloma of Alternative Energy Logics Inc. (now renamed "Energy Logics Philippines Inc.") during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy and AELL.

jority and hope that the NRE development program becomes a key solution," says Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya.

Energy Logics Inc. is a leading company in the Canadian Wind glomerate with interests in Logis-

Power Sector, while Transnation al Diversified Corp. (TDC) is the investment and holding company of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), a Philippine con-

tics, Shipping, Air & Travel, Information & Communication Technology and now, Energy. TDC and AELI president Marco

X. Delgado says "TDG is committed to improving the lives of the Filipinos and the environment in which we live. In this latest development, TDG has brought a world class renewable energy group from Canada as a partner to aggressively develop renewable energy infrastructure in the Philippines. This contract to develop 100MW of renewable energy in the Philippines will bring to the Philippines over \$150 million of investment and take our country a significant step forward in many tangible and intangible ways. We are firm believers in moving this country forward and proving not just to ourselves, but to the world, that the Philippines can indeed be an investmentfriendly country that is rich in natural and human resources "



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# Exec gets valuable lessons from fishing

Johnson got his chance to lead his own team when he was appointed country chair of Chevron Philippines inc. in May of 2004—his first crack at being a chief executive offi-

He, however, admits that while he jumped on the chance to go to the Philippines, excited as he is to explore a new place, he did not know much about the country. When my bosses asked me, what

about the Philippines? I said, where?" Johnson says, "the Philippines is really not that well known in North America." The little that he knew then

about the country he learned from Filipino nanny who used to take care of his two children But never one to back off from a

challenge, he and his family moved to the country in December of 2003, Just two months after he learned of the opening, and they were literally welcomed with a

"I was here for New Year's and I have never seen so many fireworks in my entire life," Johnson recalls, Christmas is really celebrated in a

big way here compared to Cana-

That was an auspicious start to Johnson's stint at Chevron Philip-

helm, Johnson says he has adjusted to the many differences in culture and even language that he had to understand to make the business

After close to two years at the

And apart from the fact that he can neither ski nor play hockey in tropical Philippines, he has no regrets. He has even taken up mountain biking to keep in shape. "In the first few months, you are

fulled into the feeling that because everybody speaks in English, you all mean the same thing," Johnson says, "actually, the same words may mean different things to different people."

One example is the word "aiready." He says that in Canada, if somebody says "already," it means that a job was done extra fast or way ahead of schedule.

"Here, I learned that it just means that it's done, no matter how long it took," Johnson says.

He says he had to keep an eye out for these subtle differences because it

may have some impact on how things are done.

He says this is why he always checks up on his staff and Chevron's business parmers and contractors just to make sure that they are on the same page, and are clear about their goals and how to achieve them to-

They don't seem to mind as his employees describe Johnson as an "approachable\* boss for whom they would not mind trying out new ways of getting the job done.

Getting their act together is vital for Johnson as Chevron attempts to gain a bigger share of a tough market marked with rising prices at the

"It's a tough market because with crude oil at \$62 a barrel, demand for petroleum is unlikely to grow significantly unless prices soften, he says.

Chevron recently introduced Techron to jumpstart sales The 46 year-old Johnson says Techron makes its gasoline products "un beatable" when it comes to quality and quality is what he wants Chevron to be known for in the Philippines.

# From Surigao lake to Manila supermarkets

### Northern Mindanao produces first-class dried fish

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

MAINIT, SURIGAO DEL NORTE-Local folies call it pijanga. Elsewhere, it is known as white goby. However it is called, this freshwater fish will go on record for having made it from Lake Mamit in Surigao del Norte to a processing plant in an agrarian reform community in the province, to big supermarkets in Metro Manila and Central Luzon.

Dried pijanga, produced by the Mainit ARC II, has begun to be sold in 100-gram, 250-gram, and I kg-packs in retail outlets in the metropolis. Considered "firstclass dried fish"-in the category of dried buugo and danggit-dried pijanga commands a premium price in the market.

How this was accomplished is a story of a collaboration among three partners: A team from the Philippine-Australia Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PATSAR-RD); the Upland Marketing Foundation Inc. (UMFI), otherwise known as the private-sector partner, and a women's group from the Mainit ARC II.

The story shows that with right products, adoption of private sector business strategies and collaboration with private sector partners, agrarian reform communipes can develop value-adding products worthy of big or "mainstream" markets.

### Identifying the product, site

Lake Mainit, with a 124,700he area and a 50-km stretch of lakeshore, is the fourth largest lake in the country and the most aspects: Good manufacturing



MARKETING of dried pijangs in a Surigao outlet uses private sector promotional strategies.

significant water body in the province. It teems with catfish, mudfish, carp, tilapia and eel. aside from pijanga.

A resource inventory revealed the bright potential of pijanga for new product development and subsequent wide-scale marketing. The harvest of this fish is estimated to be 61,000 kg a year.

Subsequently, a pre-feasibility gody of pijanga-drying determined the work process, equipment requirements, and production capacity. It also forecast sales, predicted break even points, identified marketing methods and channels, and studied financial aspects like capital. and startup costs, income targets, costing and pricing.

Eighteen women from Mainit ARC then proceeded to train in fish drying technology and eventually its managing the project. They were selected for their interest, willingness to learn and commitment.

Conducted by the UMFI, the training initially focused on two

processes (GMP) and basic food processing.

An industry requirement, GMP training ensures the safety and sanitation of the production operation and the final product. Training on basic food processing was hands on. Each woman had to do step-by-step processing while strictly observing GMP

The women received follow-up training as the products went into a series of laboratory and market testing, and as the formulation and process continuously evolved. Today, even as full commercialization is about to take off, the women have been taught to expect even more training.

### Product development

The initial prototype of dried pijanga was developed in a makeshift workplace at Surigao del Norte Codege of Agriculture and Technology. Four trial production runs were done. From the results, production process and formulation were improved.

A series of sensory tests followed to determine how the market would accept the product in terms of taste, aroma, color, texture and other physical at-

In a month, a final prototype was ready.

Meanwhile, product packaging and labeling were also evolving. At prototype stage, the product was wrapped simply in cellophane wrapper. This was modified several times as results of the various tests came in.

The final packaging adopted was a high-density polyethylene plastic box—attractively labeled, reusable and microwaveable.

### Marketing

A marketing plan was prepared by the women, after training on marketing and business systems with UMF1 experts.

The plan identified both local and mainstream markets.

The local market are the local residents as well as tourists and travelers either visiting or passing through Surigao en route to other destinations in Mindanao. Seaports, bus terminals, public markets and supermarkets in the province were specified as crucial locations.

The mainstream market is the 100 plus retail outlets in Metro Manile and Central Luzon that comprise the network of UMFI.

### Mainstream marketing

With final product formulation, skills and markets in place, full production is eyed soon.

By this time, the project would have instalted its own mechanical dryer, courtesy of the municipal and provincial governments, which pledged donations.



DRIED pliangs is processed using industry-prescribed good manufacturing practices (GNP)

By then, full capacity production of 150 kg fresh fish a day would have been achieved. By then too, the enterprise would have been licensed by the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

At full capacity, the plant should be able to produce 205 kg of dried fish a month, at P52,685 production cost. This will generate sales of P71,750 a month and net profit of P19,06S.

Full-blown production would also enable the project to go into full-steam marketing.

For the UMFI market network alone, the requirement is 125 kg of dried pijanga a month, involving only a few of its huge retailing network.

### Short and long term benefits

At the present limited volume, each of the women stands to earn an additional income of about P1,500 a month. This compares well with the meager income from rice and coconut farming.

Aside from earning income, the women are learning technical and managerial skills. Not only are they being trained to produce and adopt technology but also to market prod-

ucts, supervise workers and manage finance. This is notches above poverty-alleviating activities many rural women are used to. This prepares them for entrepreneurship of the innovative kind.

As sales increase and production grows, more workers need to be hired, creating job opportunities in the community, increasing purchasing power and building the local economy.

Fishermen around Lake Mainit stand to prosper, too, as they try to meet the fish drying facility's growing demand for their white goby catch.

### Long journey

It has been a long way from the lake waters of Surigao to the supermarkets of Manila. As Vic Jurlano of PATSARRD puts its: "The way has neither been easy nor smooth, taking 15 months of capability building, product development, market building and, yes, partnership in development."

But the project is worth all these-especially when the project becomes sustainable and replicable as it is expected to be," adds colleague Aris Portuga!.

# Tent rises in Subic

### By Mariet D. Salazar

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT HAS long been seen as an alternative business and tourism hub in the country. Its strategic location and natural wonders are just some of its many advan-

Believing that more investors and tourists will see what Subic Bay has to offer, Legend International Resorts Ltd. (LJRL) recently opened its third hotel at the Freeport.

El Centro (or The Center) is actually a spacious multi-purpose tent, the first of its kind to rise in Subic

The 1,000-square meter tent measures 20 meters wide with a central height apex of 7.25 meters. It is made of PVC-coated polyester by Expo Logistics, and was manufactured in Ger-

Khoo Boo Boon, who was behind the construction of the convention, sports and cultural center, says the tent is designed to withstand typhoon winds with a speed of up to 150 kilometers an hour.

It was set up to accommodate large functions and sports activities, but El Centro that can fit 1,000 people can also be divided into two major confer-



kind to rise in Subic.

ence rooms for smaller events El Centro sits across the Water-

front beach and is only minutes away from Legenda Hotel, Subje's premier hotel. Khoo says he expects E. Centro to soon host business conventions, but it will also be marketed to house trade exhibits, cultural, sports and entertainment activities.

"I wanted Legend international Resorts to have something out of the ordinary in capturing a slice of meetings, incentives, convention and exhibitions (or what he calls MICE) business in the country," he says.

He wanted a tent as opposed to the conventional concrete struc-

ture "as there is none is Subic." The idea of a "tent" as a venue for large gatherings is patterned

after similar structures in Europe and the United States. Similar structures are increasingly becoming popular venues in Malaysia, Singapore and Thai-More than rust a tent, El Centro

has an annex that houses a fully equipped kitchen, audio-visual room, motorized LCD screen and ample storage facilities. its entrance hall is comple-

mented by specially designed French windows that provide a view of the Waterfront beach

Khoo says El Centro is a valuable addition to the Legend group's facilities in Subic.

"El Centro complements LIRES 500 first-class rooms in three hotel property in Subic, soon-to-be seven restaurants, eight shopping

arcades, 10 function rooms, three swimming pools, two karaoke centers, ballroom, and the company's recently renovated state-of-the-art casno-entertainment complex,"

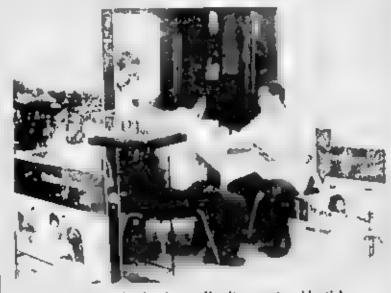
El Centro recently hosted "Starlight Cabaret" with two weekend performances of dancers from the Estoman Dance Agency. It also featured the live telecast of boxer Brian Villoria's recent fight.

Khoo personally supervised the construction of El Centro, from its conception to approval of budget and materials

Khoo observes that the number of rooms and other facilities in the Freeport, while not exactly large by national and international standards, is good enough to make Subic an alternative convention destination.

But more rooms need to be

"We definitely need more rooms and entertainment facilines," he says. "My own estimate is an additional 5,000 rooms and two or more centers. are needed at the very minimum for Subje to be a significant player in the business industry, at least within the



DMCI Homes, popular developer of in-city, resort-residential communities, is conducting a month-long exhibit at the ground floor of Waltermart in Makati to showcase the company's latest condominium projects - Aman Garden Residences in Parahaque, Mayfield Park Residences in Pasig and Mahogany Place in Taguig. The sales exhibit will run until today. For inquiries, call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

### Chocolate-making workshop for kids

MAKE YOUR CHILDREN'S school break this summer productive by letting them learn the technique of easy chocolate making and moulding in a day-long seminar on chocolate making for kids on April 8, Saturday at the Vermont Biooms Unlimited at 9 Anonas Rd., Project 3, Quezon City from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The participants will be taught of how to mix and mold chocolate in various shapes and forms from their favorite cartoon character to floral and fun shape designs.

Parents and yaya's could accompany their kids to the semipar venue. For questions, call 952 29-34, 952-40-28, 913-65-51, 951-29-66 and 913-65-51

# DOT creates first computerized jobs databank

(DOT) is setting up a high-tech hiring system and info-technology infrastructure for the Tourism Jobs Pair, which will be staged in Cebu City on April 3 to 5, Davao City on April 4 to 6, and Manila on April 6 to 8

travel and tourism industry, the fair constitutes the initial phase of the DOT's "Tourism JOBs (Jobs, Opportunities, Business)" pro-

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM gram, which is designed to ad- employers, academe and the ladress the dearth of qualified talents to fill up job openings in tourism, the need for improvement of the current BS Tourism curriculum to meet the actual needs of tourism enterprises, and the absence of continuing aktila Intended exclusively for the training to upgrade the competence of the labor force.

The event will go beyond the usual concept of job fairs by serving as DOT's one-stop venue for

bor sector to assess each other's needs and create an employment

The TourismJOBs Program Secretariat (tel. 5251153, 5259318 loc. 229/230/231) is urging employers, schools and appoicants for various tourism-resated jobs to register online (www.rourismjobs.ph)

The website is available all year round, it will continue to gather vacancy postings from tourism industry employers and applications from job seekers even after the fair. Employers and applicants who have already registered may continue to access their profiles for updates, see new vacancy listings and post new job

During online or onsite registration, a unique identification number (UIN) will be usued to every applicant

# China autonomous region trade fair to end today

THE DEPARTMENT OF COM merce of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, one of China's important provincial government organizations, which administrates and coordinates (WTCMM). internationa, trade & economic

and other affairs has been holding a the Guangxi Commodities Exhibition since March 30 and will end today the World Trade Manila Center Metro

This showease of Guangki # cooperation, domestic trade sponsored by the People's Gov-

tonomous Region and organized by Guangai Department of Commerce. Other supporting business and organizations include Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Philippines, Pederation of Filipino-Chinese Cham-

ernment of Guangzi Zhuang Au- bers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and Filipino-Chinese Amity Club Inc.

The import and export trade volume between Guangxi and the Philippines has reached \$12.53 million in 2004 and \$15 million in 2005 respectively.

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WHE SIGNIFICANT number of ballet schools around the

metro not only signifies the profitability of such a business endeavor-it also asserts that Filipmos have unquestionable talent and skills for dance.

Vella C. Damian, a noted dramane ballerina whose talent and passion have made her world-famous, has teamed up with entrepreneurs Gie and Gerry Bote for a partnership that recently launched the "Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet Studio."

Damian and the Bote couple both own and run distinctive ballet schoois, but following a common vision to "make the highest standard of classica, ballet training available far and wide," the partners decided to forge the alhance for a new direction in the ballet schoolindustry.

Formerly called Vibeca Danskul, the studio is located at Cubao, Quezon City, and owned by the Bote couple. It was opened in year 2003 and enjoyed modest success for its wide variety of dance classes catering to students from all ages and proficiency levels. Late last year however, the Bote couple decided to imple-

ment a long-ranging plan to move to another location in Mindanao Avenue and subsequently close the Cubao stu-

"Gie and Gerry's two daughters were my ballet students when they were in grade school, and after seeing their family again after so many years, I heard about their plan to transfer to Mindanao Ave. I just casually mentioned that it was a pity for them to close the studio, since it has established a reputation and is so wellequipped, so Gie made a kind of informal offer if I was interested in running and I said

Damian relates. Damian, trained in New York and performed all over the world during her heyday as a baherina, ho.ds an outstanding resume which has led her to establish the School of Ballet and Dance Arts, now known as the Vena C. Damian School of Ballet, It has five branches' a main studio in Mayon, Quezon City; school-based studios at Sta. Isabel College, St. Paul College Pasig, and St. Paul University Quezon City, at the New Manila Ballet Center, and now, the Vibeca and Vella C. Damian

She is also the coauthor of the National Ballet Syllabus and the Philippine coordinator of the Australian Conservatoire of Bailet (ACB) Syllabus (Russian-Vaganova Method) written by Christine Walsh As such, the Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet will follow this syllabus which is implement ed in all of Damian's

schoots. Her reputation as a respected figure in the ballet world complements the Bote business couple's acumen. Aside from the ballet schoo., G.e. and Gerry Bote also own and run Agrikultura P.lipina Inc., the country's largest pro-

ducer of anthuriums. "Both Vibeca Ballet and Vella Dam an Ballet School run respectable and strong operations invidiually. Both bring foundarional strengths into the new company. Vibeca is strong in



**VELLA Damian and Gla Bote** 

business operations and Vella Damian's strength is in the technical aspects of running a school," says Gie.

The partnership also aims for an immediate increase in total student enrolment, which will

"As the partnership generates more funds that will be pumped boost revenues at a lower cost of back into the school operations,

Control of the Contro

the school is able to implement programs to further improve teaching efficiency. Over the long-term, we see Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet more intensely empowered to inspire a large population of young people to realize their artistic dreams," Gie further explains.

The new partnership takes effect this summer season, in time to accommodate vacationing students. Damian will serve as the Ballet Directress while Gie will retain her rose as School Adminis-

"As Ballet Directress, I will oversee artistic and technical aspects and make sure our teachers are competent. We will also alternate examinations with school concerts every other year, so that we are more focused on the training program," Damian adds.

Vibeca and Vella C. Damian

Ballet will also offer other types of dance including jazz, streetdancing, and contemporary dance, among others.

Damian and Gie note that running a bailer school is profitable enough, which is why many institut.ons are offering the same services. The difference however, manufests on the students themselves, whether they have been trained well and are confident enough to perform on stage.

"There is enough room for more top caliber ballet schools. There are more than enough potentia, students in the population. In fact, more competition results in better awareness about the contribution of ballet to the development of the youth, especially in the areas of discipline and commitment. We put up a ballet school not because it is iucrative but because of our passion to help young people discover their potentia, in performing arts, and help them maximize such po-tential," Gie concluded.

Vibeca and Ve.la C. Damian Ballet, located at he ground floor of the AMO Building, 92 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City, offers summer workshops in classical banet, jazz and street dancing starting Apri. For inquiries, call 912-4283,912-6781 or 9957441.





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# From grandma's labels to high-tech machines Sock maker started with 48 pairs every eight hours; now it's 6,500 pairs every 24 hours



By Alexa H. Bacay

IT STARTED IN 1967 AS A BACKyard business with two machines and a few workers, producing only two dozen pairs of socks per machine every eight hours. At the time, Ruddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Philippines, says even his grandmother was helping with the labeling. Now, the company, renamed Burlington Industries from Mil-Oro Manufacturing Corp., produces 6,500 pairs of socks, 24 hours a day.

"Maybe it was the vision of my uncle Pete Tan," says Ruddy of Burlington's success. Pete is the president of Burlington Industries. He believed that "socks are a very basic commodity."

The biggest challenge the company had to overcome is finding a place in the market. When Burlington started, there were only a few players but "being new in the industry you have to establish your niche and create a demand for your product."

In the late 70s, Burlington would only be made known to people through their print ads.

In the '80s it became aggres-

sive in marketing and promotions and got basketball player Norman Black as their endorser.

in 1986 they used TV ads to widen their reach on the market.

In the '90s, they launched the Burlington Basketball tips which basketball techniques shown on TV in between PBA breaks. Because of this, Burlington received a special citation from the Catholic Mass Media Awards in 1990.

Today, although it enjoys more popularity, Burlington has to compete with foreign brands that have penetrated the local market scene as well.

"We've been established," Ruddy says on how he manages to compete with the other brands. We're almost nearing our 40th [year] na, so it would be our experience in the industry on how for the past 30 plus years we've been doing socks from morning to evening. We can say we have the expertise.

"We're also always trying to come up with something new for the market, " he adds. "You need to take care of your first business, which is socks," says Ruddy. "It's really getting competitive because of the globalization of mar-

RUDDY TAN, general manager of Burlington Socies

ket. So you have importation, price war, but we've always been focusing on quality."

Its research and development team continuously comes up with product innovations to suit the growing needs of the market.

Their latest innovation is the Burlington Shock XT, which is an impact absorbing sock designed to prevent injuries for athletes who play on hard surfaces. It has extra thick shock pads that cushion the foot and protect knee joints in the process. Its yarn construction assists in the prevention of blisters and abrasion.

"Well, the concept of the socks

is to give proper support to the feet of the athlete," explains Ruddy. "If you have injuries in the ankles, and then in the knees, then literally you can't play anymore."

In October last year, Burlington launched its Biofresh anumicrobial socks that help keep the feet odor free.

They're also trying to find a. niche in the bag industry by coming up with the Trek Gear and Impact which targets the youth for their school needs and for outdoor activities.

Every company is not without their share of obstacles. Burning-

also through some financial difficulties. "We had to re-

group," explains Ruddy which resulted in Burungton eventually becoming a family business.

Ruddy believes that having built a name for their brand, the next target would be expansion.

"We've invested a lot on the brand in terms of quality and the advertisements that we did, so in the future if we could come up with a complete product line, that would be our next target," he explains

Burlington has license to manufacture Puma Sports socks, Bally Formal socks and Camp Outdoor socks. They're also licensing the Slazenger Baleno brands.

"I think one of our advantages now is the modernization equipment wherein we phased out all our mechanical machines and replaced them with computerized machines," says Ruddy: He cites that the computerized machines are very flexible. "I can take your picture and from that, yung face mowill come out sa socks!

"Our direction is to come out with something more Innovaave something different-different and useful to the consumer. Not only in the design, but something functional as well," adds Ruddy.

As an advertising Burlington sponsors the Philippine Basketball Association and has been the "official socks" of

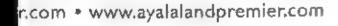
the PBA since 1989 As part of the corporate thrust of prompting youth in sports development Ruddy started the RP Youth Cage Team in 2002. The team won the 2004 Seaba Jumor Championship in Lucena in 2004

Burlington is also a major sponsor of Norman Black's Basketball Skills Camp which is a specialized and intensive basketball training camp. This involves basketball's contemporary and past superstars going from school to . school to share their knowledge and skills i in the court with the youth.

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Ayala Land Premier's atest residential development in the Ayala Alabang area. also enveloped by one of the most advanced security systems available. irself with all that magnificent wide open space.





### Sunday BIZ

# Business opportunities and success stories

# Hard work, patience and honesty are this lady's secret to success

OR ANY PERSON \*\*recruited\*\* to get into an MLM (multi-level marketing) business or network marketing, the opportunity will be viewed with skepticism. For the JC Spice Corp., this story stands out to illustrate the triomph of the ordinary Fillipino's quest for a better for more meaningful life. These interviews were mostly conducted in the vernacular and translated to English.

Leonora C. Atienza, maker of Savona herbal soap, is a wife and mother of five children whose story weaves from a P500 missed SSS monthly payment; and a foreclosure nonce for a house she was paying for to how she managed to acquire two houses since

·Living a hard life in the mid 90s, with a growing young family, she began a career as a bath soap agent. Later, her customers bombarded her with questions about the soap which she couldn't answer. She wasn't even satisfied with the soap itself and so, she decided to take a different route by making her own soap and finding ways to make a better soap. Signing up for a soap making seminar at the DTI, the three-day course was not enough to make you a soap manufacturer expert but Aling Nora's inherent trait is her persistence and single-mindedness. When she decides to pursue something, she is determined



When we started it was just a backyard business. I started with my children. I borrowed

She recalls the very hard beginnings from their house in Antipolo, Rizal at which time she also joined and became a dealer of Boston Company, one of the forerunner direct selling companies of JC Spice president, Joey Castro. The opportunity knocked when Aling Nora was still with Boston in the late '90s, Joey and Dina Castro had already begun JC Martin and were looking for a soap supplier.

"Aling Nora" as she is fondly called, brought her sample and saw the competition from the products with branded names

to see it through in spite any laid out on the table. So it was with great surprise that her soap was chosen among the more familiar names. She learned later that the JC Martin president himself tried it and was satisfied. And from then on, they agreed to belp each other and be partners in developing the soap and making it available to the market.

Dinna Castro, being the prod uct development director took charge of the packaging and that was how Savonna, JC Spice's fastest seiling soap was born

"When they chose our product, thanked God. Sir Joey and Ma'am Dinna were easy to talk to," she says.

After her short seminar at DTI, with her handouts to guide her, she spent much money on trial and error formula in concocting

ber soap, but she never gave up and until now, tries to improve

From the values she learned in her personal life which she applied to her own family and the way she runs her business, as manufacturer-supplier to JC Spice, she feels most at ease and at home with the couple who gave her the push to make Savonna what it is today.

Life has changed dramatically since for the Atienza family but simple and frugal living are still applied. She also applies a handson policy to her business even if she has people working for her now. Not leaving anything to chance that might create irreparable damages must be avoided at all cost. The Filipino value of "pagtulong sa kapwa," is also a tenet to Aling Nora's business ethics. And being with the JC family, from the very beginning. Almg Nora matured in her business acumen with all the learning she had and found the ideal partners in the people, whom she trusts and shares same values with, and who, he ped her get started as a manufacturer-suppli-

She advises would-be entrepreneurs, especially those with humble beginnings like her, of three things if they want to succeed in business, which she emphasized as a networker in the JC company: "Even when I was still a networker, when I was training people I would tell them that to succeed, you have to be hardworking, patient and honest. These three are needed in whatever you do. Without these you will get nowhere."

# **BELINDA DY**

# Daughter's fascination evolves into a franchising venture for mom

HER DAUGHTER'S ATTRAC- other highly-interactive station to stuffed animals created for Ma Belinda Dy a business opportunity

Dy brought into the country the first create-your-ownstuffed-animal craze pioneered by Animaland, an international, mall-based group of retail stores and kiosks that allow stuffed-animal lovers all over the world to create and dress their own stuffed-ani-

"We discovered the possibilities when we were shopping in the US and saw young and old alike, bearning happily and carrying cradles with stuffed toys inside. Then, we found out that it's a do-it-yourself thingy My daughter fell in love with the idea, thus, inspiring me to bring home the concept," says Dy Animaland's Chief Executive Bear in the Philippines.

She continued, "Definitely,

there's big money in franchising, especially with Animaland since this is very unique. Antmaland is the first complete create-your-own-stuffed-animal business in the country, which gives guests an unforgettable experience of personalizing their stuffed toys. This is very interactive and I believe our guests, from ages 2-100, would love to get involved into something that is created by their own hands."

With the help of our Junior and Senior Bear-builders, a guest goes through eight interactive stations 1) Choose Your Anima, Skin (with over 40 animal skins to choose from), 2) Stuff Your Animal (our fluff is fine and hypo-allergenic), 3) Make A Wish For Your Animal (where you put the wishing star inside your animal), 4) Hear Your Ammal (where you could record your personalized greetings or your own choice of songs), 5) Fluff Your Animal (where your animal takes an air bath to get clean), 6) Dress Your Animal (choose from our οĒ OUTwide range fits-swimwear, rocker, fashionista, etc.--- and accessories), 7) Name Your Animal (where you can christen your stuffed animal and even get his own birth certificate), and the last station, Take Home Your Antmal, where you're given a cradle to carry your new friend.

tions such as the Animal Salon (complete with wigs and other hair accessories), Animal Hospital (for broken or worn-out animais), Animal Nursery (for baby animals) and Animal Eye Clime (for guests who want their toy's eyes customized).

Dy did not hesitate to invest in America's Animaland, which is also famous in United Kingdom, Australia, Puerto Rico

"The entire process, in itself, is enticing and interesting. So, that alone is already saleable More so, with franchising, parneularly if it's a global brand, you are assured of internationa, standards that boast of quality service. Also, with the help of our mother company in USA, we are able to support franchisees all the way, starting from day 1-from the operanons, training of personnel, inventories, to advertising, and marketing. Meaning, less worries for beginners in the business as we guide them each step of the way."

In fact, in the short span of time since Animaland Philippines was established in December 2005, Dy has been receiving overwhelming feedback from guests, most of them returning ones.

"It's addicting. You'd fall in love with the "process" because it's like giving birth to your own baby. And each animal, which would roughly cost P500, to P1,500 with accessories, is a collector's item because every one of them is a hmited edition animal as new items get in every season.

Dy says that Animaland's main goal is to provide an interactive entertainment experience based on love and friendship that connects people to stuffed animals and to one another; that with Animaand's stuffed-animal-friends. Dy hopes their guests would be able to spread more love and joy to humankind. A member of Francorp, Animaland is open for franchising. For queries cali 5637881 or 5612380. Or visit Animaland at the 3rd sevel of City Walk 2, Eastwood City, 4th level of Shangri-La Mall, and 3rd level of Powerplant Mall and soon at Toy Kingdom at the Mall of Animaland plans to open Asia

## From garment-making to direct-selling

of fashion direct selling and networking for 14 years no joke.

high hopes and burning desire to Right now, they have 23 branchbelp others alleviate their means es, 26 information centers and a of living, Bernard and Imelda Madera set up Boardwalk.

Boardwalk grew from a garment maker to a direct-seiling and networking firm.

"According to Business Development head, Glenda Pingol, - What makes our business work I is the fact that we get to help every Filipino family realize their dreams by offering them equal opportunity to avail of our busi-- pess facility and start their own businesses with manageable investment. One could even grow their business and earn as high as hundreds of thousands with min-

Boardwalk has positioned its Armed with nothing but their branches all over the country. fully computerized system which allows its members to monitor their sales performances and their earnings wherever they are. To balance their expansion program, Boardwalk is continuously moving even to the far flung areas of the country to accommodate the needs of the growing number of Filipino consumers.

Boardwalk offers free membership to interested individuals all year round. There are more than 500,000 members and business partners today. Boardwalk president Bernard Madera said, "What we offer is a risk free business.

own pace and encourage them to tends to the point of investing challenge themseives as to how much money they would like to earn. We groom them, help them tion, making sure that every partdevelop their potentials to the ner is equipped with good marfullest, in that way we value the presence of each other in the business. We practice co-existence as an important element to keep our business going and we are committed to keep it that

A member can get lifetime basic discounts, earn from their personal selling activities or share the business privileges through recruitment and networking with their friends. They can get the change to have their own career growth at their own pace and time. Boardwalk's partnership

"TO REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT unal investment as low as P500. We make our members set their support with their members exand developing them through continuous training and educaketing and entrepreneurial skill to guarantee success.

We listen and listen to the reguirements of the consumers with utmost sincerity which leads us to the development of products that are fashionable, tailored-fit and very much affordable which an ordinary consumer can enjoy without having to spend an entire paycheck," stated

For questions, go to a Boardwalk branch or business information center or call 636-6321-

### Culture influences how money is saved

NEW YORK-WHEN SUYIN TSUI on income, investment and taxes has an extra \$2.50 lying around, rather than spend it, she will cut back on her expenses so that she ends up having \$3.00 to save.

"I can buy groceries that are cheaper or postpone buying new clothes for myself," said Tsui, an immigrant homemaker from Taiwan who lives in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Most Americans, however, practice very different saving habits from Tsui. Last year the US household saving rate was negative for the first time since the -Great Depression.

With interest rates so low, consumers have been depending Theavily on credit to supplement their incomes, making them potentially vulnerable to shocks in the economy, Low financing rates made it easier to splurge on new cars and electronics and not just in the United States but countries like Britain and New Zealand as well.

. Meanwhile, many European and east Asian countries have relanively high rates of saving. In fact, total saving in east Asian countries amounts to nearly 40 percent of their economic output, compared with only 20 percent in developed economies.

Yet, economics and finance can only account for so much of such a significant difference in saving rates. Common beliefs and behavfor patterns—in short, culture-may affect saving as much as economic factors, analysts said.

Analysts say quirks in statistics

can exaggerate the differences in saving rates between some countries. They also point out saving rates in the last 30 years have been generally failing around the world.

But when you make all these adjustments, you are still left with what appear to be cultural differences," said Barry Bosworth, economist with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

When it comes to saving, one of the key differences between Asian and American cultures has to do with the reason why people save in the first place, said Borworth, whose work has focused on the difference in saving parterns between Japan and the

what Bosworth called a "dynastic" view of saving, meaning they often are motivated to accumulate wealth for use beyond their own lifetimes.

"An American might think in terms of saving for their own retirement, but an Asian will think of accumulating resources in terms of saving for their family, for multiple generations in the future," he explained.

Many political leaders and economists have warned the sack of US saving could worsen as baby boomers exit from the workforce. As an economics rule of thumb, retirees tend to depiete their savings while workers add

At a time when many compa-

mes are having to renege on pen- is a defense against uncertainty," sion promises made to workers, lack of saving can make the future for retirees seem dire

Furthermore, lack of US saving underscores the breadth of global financial imbalances that many analysts say will at some point have to be corrected.

Pederal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke has argued that a global "savings glut" in countries such as China and Japan has sent large amounts of capital overseas to the United States, helping to finance the enormous US trade deficit, which hit a record \$723.62 billion last year.

However, if high saving countries decide to slow their purchases of US financial assets, Interest Unlike Americans, Asians have rates would rise and possibly drag on the economy—a reason politicians and economists say US saving needs to improve soon.

Differences in world view also account for why some cultures save more than others, analysts say.

China, the world's fourth largest economy, has an extraordinorthy high national saving rate—which includes government and corporate saving-of 50 percent of gross domestic product.

"The Chinese have a deeply entrenched and historically justified sense that the world is unsafe." said Tom Doctoroff, author of \*Billions: Selling to the New Chinese-Consumer" and chief executive of JWT Greater China, one of the largest ad agencies in Asia.

"The lugh saving rate in China

he said.

Americans, on the other hand, have an essentially optimustic view of the world and a confidence that US political and economic institutions will basically work. And that world view contributes to a complacency about saving enough for the fu-

"The United States is a country where people see the future as better and see themselves as making a better future for themselves," said Martin Baily, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

The rosy view of the future needs to be given a dose of reality, analysts generally reckon. Low or negative household saving leaves many people vulnerable to sudden shocks to the economy, such as spikes in energy costs or another Sept. 13-type attack.

"We can improve saving," said JWT's Doctoroff "But until the day arrives in which we fundamentally change our world view, k will not be a true 'culture of saving." he said

Perhaps, it will take a change of world view or just plain old grit. Tsui, a retired accountant, plans out her monthly expenses by assigning a name to each expense, such "gasoline" or "medicine," When asked whether she would like to do things in her retirement tike travel, she said, "fravel doesn't have a name yet,"



HT & T Travel Phils. Australian Ambassador Tony Hely (center) graced the opening recently of the Philippine office of HT & T Travel, inc., general sales agent of Qantas Airways Ltd. on the 19th floor of the Dona Salustiana D. Ty Tower on Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, HT & T Philippines president and GM Honeybee Hubahib (right) welcomed the ambassador and other guests, Rob Gurney (left), Quntas head of sales and marketing, Stephen Limbrick, Quntas regional manager-Southeast Asia, and Donnis Choe (partly hidden). Holiday Tours & Travel Pte, Ltd. managing director.

People, Events Products

# Unilab reaches out to more indigent patients nationwide

country's largest and leading pharmaceutical company, supported 1,038 medical missions in 2005 through as product donation program. The medical missions have benefited more than 300,000 patients in 112 towns and 64 cities throughout the country.

Unilab's product donation program is integral to its corporate social responsibility (CSR) which sims to make safe and effective medicines accessible to as many indigent patients as possible. To achieve this, Unilab donates its healthcare products to charitable institutions, local parishes and socio-civic groups that conduct medical and dental missions throughout the country in 2005 alone, Unilab extended assistance to 1,038 medical missions that benefited children, mothers, elderly and mdigenous people like the Dumagats, Igorous and

Unilab has also imtiated partnerships with major local companies in undertaking medical missions and feeding programs for children These companies include Ayaia Corporation, San Miguel Corp, CDO Foodsphere, Globe Telecoms, among others.

Unilab has likewise instituted an accredited donees program where institutions are served with medicines monthly for a period of one year.

UNITED LABORATORIES INC (UNILAB), THE The accredited donees include Virlanic Foundation, Chosen Children Foundation, DSWD Sanctuary Center, Luwalhati ng Maynila and Anawim House for Eiderly, among others. Employee volunteers from various Unilab divisions have likewise been mobilized to conduct visitations and interaction activities with the beneficiaries.

Besides its product donation program, Unilab has also been supporting the Gawad Kalinga Arkong Bato community in Pasig City, Last year, it donated 60 houses in addition to 31 houses earlier built. It also funded the building of the three-storey multipurpose hall that is used as classroom, library clinic and function hall. Unilab also conducted a TB and Nutrition program where 200 Arkong Bato children with primary complex were treated for free.

Unilab aiso supports the government's efforts against public health issues. Last December, Unitab donated US \$1.25 million worth of antibird fits medicines to the Department of Health. It also donated P25 million worth of Enervon multivitamins to the Department of Agriculture to increase body resistance of poultry workers in the country. Unilab has likewise initiated the Corporate Coalition against Bird Flu with major local companies to share information on preventive measures and ensure business continuity if and when there is a bird flu pandemic.



Asian Eye Institute delivers good news for diabetics

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY IS AN EYE cording to Dr. Veloso, Diabetic treatment at this point," he reveals.

retinepathy often has no early warning signs. Diabetic patients should not wait

for symptoms. It is only in the advanced

stage of the disease that patient's will

observe blurring of vision and floaters.

the center of the macula, the part of the

eye where sharp, straight-ahead vision

occurs, and if fragile, abnormal blood

Veioso advise diabetics to have a com-

retinopathy and macular edema is sus-

on the nature and extent of the disease

or damage. In the early stages of the

disease, we tell our patients that the

most important thing to do is to control

their levels of blood sugar, blood pres-

center of the eye, blurring vision.

fluorescein angiogram."

Now how can a diabetic know if he sure, and blood chotesteror to prevent

OPERATION SHILL THILD HER ELECTRONISTIC

Operation Smile Philippines Foundation Inc (OSP) elected recently the members of its Board of Trustees for 2006-2007. Shown are (from left, front row) John Go representing Liwayway Marketing president Oszen Chan, Ramon Isberto representing Smart president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno, UCPB president and CEO Jose Ciserubin, Sugar Industry Foundation president and COO Edith Villanueva. E. Zobel Foundation chair Dee Anne Hora-Zobel, ABS-CBN Bantay Bata 163 program director Ting Monzon-Pakna, San Miguel Corp. vice president for corporate affairs Ramon Santiago, Johnson &

disease due to complications of dia-

betes. If not treated and controlled eas-

by this complication can lead to blind-

ness. But Dr. Amadeo Veloso Jr., one of

Asian Eye Institute's rerina specialists,

has good news: "A diabetic can actually

prevent this complication from hap-

pening." He emphasizes three thangs.

One, good control of a patient's blood

sugar level with medications; two, ex-

"When a patient's blood sugar level

is elevated for a long period of time, the

chance that diabetic retinopathy will

develop is much greater. This is be-

cause high blood sugar levels damage

the tiny blood vessels inside the rerina,

the light-sensitive tissue at the back of

the eye. A healthy retina is necessary

for good vision. The key in controlling

this disease is to properly manage and

control the level of blood sugar," he

said. In the same breath, he likewise ac-

knowledges that his advice is easier

said than done. "Controlling the blood

sugar level is the best way of preserving

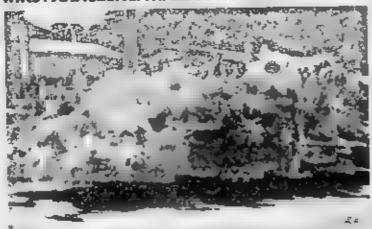
the vision of diabetics," he says.

ercise; and three, proper diet.

Johnson Medical Philis managing director Carlos Vitasa, public relations practitioner Roberto Manzano and IBM Philis president and CEO Joaquin Osintos IV; (from left, back row) Citadel Holdings president Jose Ricardo Delgado, Chigroup country officer Sarály Vohra, Yehey Corp president Donald Patrick Lim, and plastic surgeon Dr. Laurence Loh. Not in photo is United Laboratories director for corporate affairs Alberto Maniapit. OSP has been providing free reconstructive surgeries to indigent Riiginos with oral cleft since 1982. To date it has treated more than 17,000 children and young adults.

### CHOWKING FLOAT WINS PANAGBENGA HALL OF FAME AWARD

Chowleng won the Best Floral Float award (Hall of Fame) in the recently conduded 2006 Panagbenga Flower Festival in Bagulo City. This year's float therned The Family in Harmony with Nature' is the third year in a row that Chowldog came. out the judges favorite in terms of symbolisms and visual creativity. Despite the win, the company still intends to participate in the annual event even in the non-competing category in the coming years.





### TONI GONZAGA FOR SHAPES WEAR

TV host and actress Toni Gonzaga signs a contract with Shapes Wear as image model and endorser Present during the contract signing were: Shapes GM Aldy Timbang, merchandising head Amphie

Cinco, Cartito Gonzaga, Shapes CEO Augusto VIray, Crisanta Gonzaga, Shapes assistant CEO Richard Romero, and NS Advantage Ad Agency's Tet Navarro, Gioria Sy and Jason Angulo.

Macaroni Salad Supreme in Jollibee

IT'S A CALL FOR CELEBRATION IN the salad family home as Fresh Green Salad now has a new family member in the Macaroni Salad Supreme that people can always look forward to in every Jolibee visit. This unique macaron) salad supreme is a refreshingly delicaous salad which has the freshest greens with choiced ingredients tile pineapole, tomatoes, carrots and cheese plus original Jollibes chicken chunks, make for a great-tasting



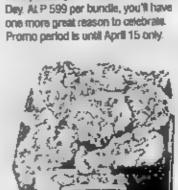
treat. It's even afforciable for only P57 for a solo order or P31 as a side dish That is something you can enjoy anytime of the day. What's more, you can have this delictous treat through the 8-7000 delivery without wasting your precious time of going out of

your office building. **Kenny Rogers' Graduation Blowout** KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS IS

rolling out the rad carpet with Kenny's Graduation Slowout. Celebrate this milestone with your choice of Chicken Bundle or Chicken and Rib Bundle. You can choose the Chicken Bundle composed of one whole roast chicken, large spaghetti platter, 2 Large side dishes, 4 steamed rice, 4 halotrain and one pitcher of Nestea ice ten Or opt for the Chicken and Rib Bundle compsed one whole stab of rib, onehalf chicken either roast or Krispy Fried Chicken, large spagnetti platter, 2 large side dishes, 4 steamed rice and one pitcher of Nestea ice tea. Every Graduation Bundle is good for 4 to 8 persons, so you and the entire family or your barkade can load up on



POPEYES CHICKEN AND SEAFOOD, the world's Favorite Flavor, congratulates the graduating class of 2006 with these special meal combos that you and your party of six will surely enjoy. Feast on Popeyes Chicken and Seafood platters that come complete ly with rice, drinks, side dishes and desserts for only P375, or only P 62.56 per person. You may also opt for P99 solo rice meals with your choics of ans-piece chicken, popcom shrimp or squid rings, a regular drink, a choice of regular onton rings. or regular fines and biscult als mode for your dessert. Pop in at any Popeyes branch located at the Green-



Kanny's real good food on Graduation

hills Shopping Center, Robinson's Metro East, New Farmers Cubao, SM Pampanga and Robinson's Place Manife. So, after marching down the graduation aisie, march to Popeyes with your family and barkada and you will surely love that chicken. Promo runs up to April 15 only

"However, if macular edema or swelling develops, patients may benefit from laser treatment. The procedure is called focal laser treatment. This treatment slows the leakage of fluid and reduces the amount of fluid in the retina. Vision can be affected if fluid leaks into This treatment may stabilize vision. On the other hand, for proliferative diabetic retinopathy, the laser procedure is vessels develop and leak blood into the called scatter laser treatment. Scatter laser treatment helps to shrink the ab-That is why retina experts like Dr. normal blood vessels. If bleeding is severe in the eye, you may need a surgical procedure cailed a virrectomy. During a prehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year since only a thorough climvitrectomy, blood is removed from the center of the eye. All these procedures cal exammation of a patient's eyes can detect diabetic retinopathy. "If diabetic are aimed at preserving the retina, thereby stabilizing the vision, and prevent further damage. These treatments pected and may need treatment" Dr. have high success rates. However they Veloso adds, "patients should undergo do not cure diabetic retinopathy. They We have specific treatments based just help control the damage brought about by the disease." Dr. Veloso says:

For inquiries about diabetic retinopathy, please call 898-2020 or email eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com. You may also log on to www.asianeyetute.com for more information has diabetic retinopathy? Sadly, ac- progression. Patients do not need laser about this progressive eye problem.

### 45th ACI World Congress ACI PHILIPPINES, TOGETHER WITH STRATEGIC

marketing communications consultancy TearnAsia, will present the 45th ACI World Congress in Manila on May 25-27 at the Philippine internation-Convention Center. The World Congress is an annual gathering of the world's financial markets readers and an initiative of the ACI-Financial Markets Association - the largest umbrella association of financia, institutions in the world with 59 member countries and more than 14,000 members.

Ice Age 2 Mania at Ministop

THE PUN AND UNUSUAL PREHISTORIC TRIC OF Manfred the woolly marrimoth, Sid the sloth, and Diego the saber-toothed tiger are back in the big screen with Ice Age 2. The Meltdown. This time they are bringing their primitive adventure to the nearest Ministop store, with cool line Age 2 collectible items. For every P60 single receipt purchase of any of the participating grocery products, customers can get clever ice Age goodies for free such as Ice Age character key chains, picture frames and stickers. Moreover, if you buy any Ministep Hot Snacks like the ready-to-est Pasta or Rice Meals with regular drink, just add P20 and you get a 22oz drink in an Ice Age character tumbler. So rush now to your nearest Ministop store and collect all these limited ice Age 2 freebies available until May 4 only.

### AirAsia-Celcom Prepaid Starter Pack launched

CELCOM (MALAYSIA) BERHAD, TOGETHER WITH AirAsia, has aunched a new offering called the AirAsia-Ceicom Prepaid Starter Pack, For a four month period until June 2006, customers stand to enjoy the benefits of only 5 cents per minute calls and 1 cent per SMS to two registered 013 or 019 Colcom numbers in Malaysia. Alternatively, they can substitute one of the local 013 or 019 numbers. with one IDO number to one of the 10 selected countries to enjoy the most competitive IDD rates for calls made to these countries from Malaysia. Priced at just RM4 99, the AlrAsia-Celcom Prepaid Starter Pack is available nationwide at the 49 Celcom Service Centres, Celcom's dealer outlets, AirAsia outlets and onboard AirAsia flights.

### M&M's. **Duty Free** promo

MASTERFOODS PHILS INC makers of M&M's chocolate candles recently launched an exclusive promo for Duty Free Philippines dubbed as Guessing M's. This will run until April 16, at the Duty Free Flesta Mail. For every purchase of 1 pasalubong bag , customers is entitied to 3 raffle coupons for a chance to guess how many M&M's chocolate candles are inside the giant lentil bowi. Prizes at stake are M&M's Giant and Regular Plush Toys. This is the company's way of

### Mario's Restaurant promo

welcoming our overseas workers and ballichayans.

GRADUATES CAN ENJOY A WELL-DESERVED break and be treated to a complimentary Dasa Special like chicken parmesan, breaded chicken fillet served with Fettucine Alfredo or barbecued spareribs, mesty ribs with a special sauce, when you dine with your family and friends at Mario's Restaurant from March 15 to May 31 Graduates are requested to bring their IDs. Call Mario's at 415-3887 or 372-0360.

### China Bank's Home Plus loan rate stays lower, longer

BUILDING, OWNING OF RENOVATING A HOME IS now more affordable. China Bank keeps its home loss. interest rate to 9.75 percent p.a., the lowest in the industry. This great offer is extended up to April 30. The 9.75 percent p.a. interest rate is fixed for one year. For clients who want to have the interest rate fixed longer as protection from future rate increases, China Bank also offers other low interest rate fixing schemes. 10.50 percent p.a. fixed for 2 years, 11.25 percent per armum fixed for 3 years, and 11.50 percent per annum load for 4 or 5 years. The low rates apply to China Bank HomeFlus town applications from Feb. 16 to April 30. A China Sank HomePlus loan is for the purchase of a lot, a house and lot, a townhouse, or a condominium unit, it is also evailable for renovating a house or refinancing an existing loan with another bank. To apply for a HomePlus loan or to get more information on the special rate, call 886-5555, e-mail homepiust@chinabank.ph, or visit www.chinabank.ph.

### **BAYANTEL INKS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH AT&T**

BayanTel recently signed a Full Channel Service agreement with AT&T. The new agreement is an enhancement to the existing bilateral agreement between the two. The agreement effectively allows AT&T customers to select BayanTet to provide the 'Philippine Leg' connectivity of their international data circuits. The agreement was signed at the AT&T Corporate Center in Morristown New Jersey on Feb. 2, in photoare (from left). Robert Aulenbach - group manager, international network angineering, ATAT; Jacqui Co-Soriano - partner services consultant, Bayantel; Rao Gadde - regional director, A/P network planning and engineering, AT&T; Vinoo Ramasawak - manager, international network angineering, ATAT; and Jon Arayata - head, new business and partners, Bayardel.



### CITIBANK (WEST) FSB PRESIDENT MILETS BSP GOVERNOR

Photo shows Citibank (West), FSB president Cal-Ixto Garcia-Velez (3rd from left) during a courtesy call to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tatangco (2nd from right) together with (from left) Citibank Phils' Benjie Olive and Allene Litonjua and Citigroup country officer Sange Volva. Garcia-Velez was in the country to promote Citibank Global Transfers to the Philippines, the remittance service piloted by Eltibank in Callfornia and Nevada early last year. In their mosting. Garcia-Velaz thanked the Governor for his and his team's support to the program.



# Let The Sweet Scents, Take You Higher



### Take your pick from fastmoving Ponderosa Heights premium lots

Each day the garden is different, and new in some way: a flower reaches full bloom; a new cluster of leaves appears; a seed falls, allowing new life to begin. That's the story at Ponderosa Leisure Farms, exclusive residential flower garden village in Silang, Cavite.

Sweet and swift

Just as quickly as the different features and areas of Ponderosa Leisure Parms are coming together—the Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse Campo Verde Campsite, and the El Refugio and the El Sanctuario Themed Gardens, to name a few—more and more city residents and garden enthusiasis are drawn like butterflies to the irresistible flower-inspired Ponderosa lifestyle.

Ponderosa Heights: higher and prime
With Ponderosa Lessure Farms (Phase 1)
nearly sold-ont, developer Landco Pacific
Corporation makes a new cluster of lots available
for those who missed the first batch Ponderosa
Heights. Set in a prime spot, the lots (17 hectures
in total) has higher location and fanciful terrain.
The area will feature 4 elegant and omate garden
courts, in which one can enjoy the relaxing

space, the breeze, and the exhibitanting view.

With an exquisite Spanish-Mexican inspired visual theme, the project offers superb location (Sta. Rosa Highway, just 45 minutes from Makati), crisp Tagaytay weather and climate, and perfect terrain. Lush landscape, and a world of flowers. The wide expanse is dotted by features and amenities designed to bring new colors and flavors to your lifestyle. Maintenance services allow hassle-free gardening.

Coming together

The project continues to bloom, the Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse is getting propped for all the social action that is to come. With an area that welcomes 80 - 100 people, the structure is another graceful mix of Spanish and Mexican architecture. Its central attraction is a high-ceilinged function room accented by light fixtures on the walls and ceiling. The Clubhouse's glass doors create a wide, spacious, relaxed environment, allowing the interiors to extend naturally into the space and greenery that autrounds.

To be launched soon is the Special Event Area, beside the Chibhouse, which features a built-in stage and water fountain in the center. The children's playground, as well as the Las Rosas Outdoor Dining and Tienda de Flores Village Store are soon to rise. Also to be constructed is a Model House for Ponderosa Heights. Casa Ponderosa, the Model House for the cotine development, is available for viewing.

Flower Power

Hurry and reserve a place of your own at Ponderosa Leisure Farms. Experience the beauty and allure of a garden-fresh life—dewdrops in the morning, kids running around the sprinkers, the earth's fragrance after rainfall. Always fresh, always new. Every day, different

It's your turn to experience Panderona Leiture Farna! New lass are available at the highest locations of the village. Call 809-3853 or 6920-9107145 for more information. You may also send e-mail to LFC ustomerrervice@landcopacific.com Visit www.leisurefarats.com for news and updates. Lacated in the cool breety fields of Silang, Cavite. Panderosa Leisure Farna is just 5 minutes from Toguytay, and 45 minutes from Metro Manila. Postlerosa Leisure Farna is a quality development of Landeo Pacific Carporation.

Landco Pacific Corporation is a multi-product development engaged in high-quality First Homes Subdivisions, Residential Resorts, Leisner Forms, Shapping Centurs, and CBD's and Memorial Parks. Committed to provide superior value in its developments, the company has been a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that always dare to innovate.

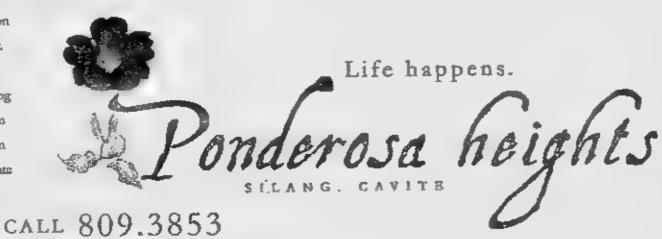




### NATURAL HIGHS

Frw things come close to the exhibitation of watching things grow and bear fruit.

Especially so at Ponderosa Fleights in Ponderosa Leisure Farms, situated along the Santa Rosa road, five minutes from Tagaytay Blessed with higher elevation and more level terrain, its cool, temperate climate can make anything bloom.

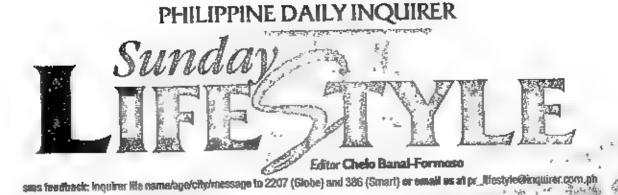






TESSA reminisces to Sergio Mendes music

/F2



barbershop makes the cut

PICTURES of leading ledles of yesteryears, including Gloria Remere, Amalia Fuentes, Susan Roces, Rosa Rosa and the late Nida Blanca, grace the Walls of this barber shop-cum-beauty salon in Greenhills.

With its vintage photos of the past icons of the silver screen, Don Juan grooms male and female clients along classic lines

Text by Alex Y. Vergara Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

his hair, the more he troops to the barbershop to have it groomed. That's certainly good news to people at Don Juan Barbershop, as regulars don't seem to mind the frequent trips.

Apart from pampering themselves with their favorite grooming services—from haurcuts to hair coloning, foot spas to body massages, manicures to pedicures—customers can take a trip down memory lane at the grooming center located at the ground floor of Shopesville in Greenhills (tel. 7213142)

There are no pictures of unknown models sporting the latest hairstyles here, as the barbershop is a virtual gallery of vintage black-and-white studio shots of such Filipino matinee idols as Mario Montenegro, Nestor de Villa, Leopoldo Salcedo, Armando Goyena, Juancho Gutterrez and Pancho Magalona, among others.

Pictures of the late Fernando Poe Jr. and his actor-father have also earned their places atop the barbershop's mirrors. But the display is no pantheon of dead idols, as the grinning images of Dolphy, Eddie Garcia and deposed President Joseph Estrada are also on display.

"These images have become like a bridge between the past and the present," says Don Juan owner Buddy de Vera, president of Alpha Music Corp. "People my age are instantly transported to their youth, while their children and grandchildren are fascinated as they go through the pictures."

Such classic photos weren't easy to come by Due to his extensive show-biz connections, the 50 something record executive was able to hook up with a certain Ador of Tropicana

It was like a rite of passage for movie stars back then to have their glamour shots taken at the photo studio in Malabon. Despite the many years, Tropicana has been able to preserve a good number of its negatives.

De Vera, then a big fan of Amalia Fuentes, N da Blanca and De Villa, borrowed the negatives and had some of them blown up and printed. He originally wanted to showcase pictures of departed celebrities until a customer and fellow movie fan corrected him one day.

"I learned that some of those featured in THIS BARBERSHOP/C2



MODERN and adjustable chairs in what otherwise would have been a traditional grooming center.



### Sunday LIFESTYLE



# This barbershop makes the cut

### From page CI

the display were actually still alive," he says. "There was no distinction anymore as I added more pictures of surviving actors "

Now on its third year in the grooming biz, Don Juan has expanded to include a beauty salon adjacent to the barbershop.

of leading ladies of yore such as Fuentes, Glos, , team ria Romero, Lolita Rodriguez, Susan Roces, " Lilia Dizon, Delia Razon, Rosa Rosal and the would fare when I first opened it," says de Velate Rita Gomez and Blanca

For the longest time, wives and girl friends who accompanied their partners to the barbershop were demanding to know when De Vera would feature the women. Not only did they get their wish, they now have a place to have their hair and nails come more conscious about grooming than

pand his collection and add the photographs done. The salon is run by an all-women

"I wasn't quite sure how the barbershop ra. "To my surprise, the men, whether they are balding or not, still prefer the barbershop over the beauty parlor. Barbers can do certain things beauticians can't."

In an ironic twist, adds De Vera, most men. the nunute their hairlines start to recede, bewomen. Age usually also equates to more disposable income to spend on such newfound necessities as manicure, pedicure, body massages and even ear cleaning

It doesn't nurt that their role models are beautiful people belonging to a bygone era when movie stars looked and acred every inch

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer





SAN MARÇOS (above); Hufing Hapunan

### Demo on spring makeup

KANEBO ARTIST JUNYA Yoneda is holding a demo of the Testimo collection at the Kanebo counter in Rustan's Tower, today, 12 noon-8 p.m.

Jenny Liang, another Kanebo artist, will provide beauty tips.

For a purchase of two T'esti mo 2006 S/S Collection products, the customer gets a free 5R studio-quality photo.

The T'estimo collection by Kanebo introduces a new line of fresh, innovative makeup products and colors for the "Pleasure Glassy" look

The Spring-Summer look consists of colors and textures likened to wearing a veil of del-

Products making up the new range include the Serumdrape Rouge conditioning lipsticks, Gradually Eyes eyeshadows, Mix Change Powder face powder, Eyebrow Coat, Truememory Rouge long-lasting lipsticks,



INTERNATIONAL Japanese makeup artist, Junya Yoneda

Glitter Fluid Rouge liquid gloss, Color Eyes powder and Color Cheeks powder blush. Cal. 6334636.

# 53 images in one unique Lenten exhibit

RIFTYTHREE OLD AND NEW SANTOS visually depict the characters and scenes of -some of them over a hundred years loid-will be the stars of "Debosyon At 'Kasaysayan," a pre-Holy Week Exhibit traditionally held one week before Semana Santa at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Aranzazu in San Mateo, Rizai.

Conceived and initiated by parish priest Msgr. Mariano T. Balbago Jr. in 2002, the week long exhibit has become a highlight of Holy Week celebrations in this historic Rizal town where Bonifacio and his Katipuneros sought refuge during the 1896 Revolution.

Msgr. Balbago wanted a graphic and effective way to teach the Passion of Christ to

young and old churchgoers. "What better way than to have holy images to 18 when the exhibit was first held in 2002.

the Lord's Passion?" Balbago says. "Holy Week is a time when the hearts and minds of people turn to God. The Holy Week processions capture the people's attenuon so effectively, so holy images of the main characters of the Passion and various scenes of Christ's ordeal can tell the story of our redemption in a very dramatic and informative way."

From a mere 10 holy images joining the San Mateo Holy Week procession in the immediate post war era-among them, St. Peter, St. John, Magdalene, Veronica, Mater Dolorosa, Virgen de la Soledad, Agony in the Garden, Nazareno, Holy Sepulcher and Risen Christ-the number of holy images increased

The project has been very well-received and has become so successful that it has spawned a mini coffee-table book and an increase in the number of holy images to the present 53 sontos. Many of them are largerthan-life tableaux like the Tnumphant Entry Into Jerusalem, Last Supper and Pieta, among others.

The exhibit has attracted many visitors and devotees to San Mateo in recent years. Msgr. Balbago puts the project together yearly with the help of the Parish Pastoral Council and the San Mareo residents who are owners and caretakers of the santos.

The unique Lepton exhibit will run until April 9, at the Parish Hall of Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu Parochial School, Admission is free.



ANTARTIC tourism has increased seven-fold in the last 10 years—find out why from one of 12 Tagailzed versions of the Earth Pulse series to be shown by the National Geographic, world leader in geography, cartography and exploration, and Robinsons Malls at the fountain area of Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Town Mail Los Baños and Robinsons Place Angeles on April B, 22 and 29,3-5 p.m.; Robinsons Place Novaliches and Dasmarinas on April 8, 22, 29; and May 6, 3-5 p.m. Call 6635137 or 6636100 local 780 or 762.

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# The CIT Call catcher

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Part II VERY BIRTHDAY PARTY Helena gave was unique, and there were many of them. Once she rented all the rides of the Fiesta Carnival in Araneta Center, the cotton candy machines and the skating rink. The girls were all dressed in little bunny dresses roller skating. "But no matter how many projects I had, no matter tion complete with sets, lights, sound system, how crazy I was, I never neglected my family," says Helena. "My bebes, Tanya and Katya, were included in all the parties and pictorials and fashion shows. I have pictures of

1-year-old Katya in full makeup sucking her baby bottle."

Helena

is back

to stay,

and she

has a big,

beautiful

Mangenguey'

project

called

The old Roces house in Donada was unrented, empty at the time, and it was decided that Helena hold her next birthday party there. It had 10 rooms and looked spooky enough. The theme was gothic-The Wax Museum of Madam Tussaud. Aside from the Azabache crew, designers like Oscar Atendido, Tony Cajucom, Tirso Umali, Imok and a couple of others enthusiastically took on its decoration.

"Every happening was planned weeks in advance. It was like doing a theater produccostumes, only it was all just us doing everything. Everyone pitched in. We borrowed period furniture from Jo-Liza and coffins from the funeraria. We rented lights and microphones. We bought wreathes for the paray.

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HELENA Carratala's children's clothes for the NY market, sketched by Maning Obregon, fashion illustrator of the NY Times.

### KATYA GUERILEKO AND AT MACULANGAN

# Catcher Catcher

### From page DI

We even invited a chef, just arrived from Parts, to cook. Then we sprayed the whole house with fake cobwebs.

"Each bakla was assigned one room to decorate. The rooms and the people in costumes standing in them were the show itself. I have always beheved that you just put together the right people and their creativities will ignite one another. The climax is always electric. You never know what will emerge—the inspiration, the unexpected, the magic—they just happen. I was completely immersed in those shows because I was more bakia than all those bakla."

The year after, Helena and family moved to a magnificent house in San Juan which was built by an American at the turn of the century. Helena had it painted all in white and furnished minunally. Her bedroom-cum-bathroom was a hexagonal space on the second floor with a balcony surrounded by trees. The did fashioned porcelain tub was perched on a platform. Two cherubs held up the curtains. You could tell who was "in" with Helena, because they were entertained in that boudoir. The house had a circular staircase leading to a tower-ideal for the next birthday party!

### Prophetic

The theme was "Gone with the Wind"-the American South romance—and the music was New Orleans jazz. The girls all wore those huge hoopshirts which, in the frenzy of the party, they would discard, leaving them in their corsets and pantaloons! The usual culprits like Budji, Ernest Sannago and Tony Cajucom would interact with Larry Leviste, Chito Vijandre, Bobby Caballero, Pando Manipon, Steve de Leon, Raymond Fuentes and Debbie Enriquez to create the ambience Elvira Manahan and Nestor Torre were also there (to document the party on live television) Lit tle did Helena know that it would be her last party in the country, and that its title, "Gone with the Wind," would be prophetic

"One day I woke ap, wonder

ing, what am I doing in this

marriage?" relates Hele

na. "Wahoo that not

share my vision for the

future. We had become

strangers, two stones in one pond. It was a terr. Then 9/11 struck. ble awakening 1 dc and Katya, but not anymore " Richard is descended from some Mayflower stock and is a man who likes to work with his hands. He is a cabinet maker who worked for many years with Sister Parrish, the grande are a nierior design (like the Dimovement of fashion). He was ction supervisor. Sister P mish was the designer of choice or the very rich—the Gettys, the Rockefelters, the Kennedys and the White House. Richard worked with Sister Parrish until she died. Then he opened his own company. Many of her clients followed hun. Helena met Richard n 1981 during one of her trips to New York when she still had it all power, beauty, fame, dependence. She was not one g or anything, it was pure love. She married Richard in 1985. "You live together and reanze that true love is really just learn-ON MODEL—one of ing to accept another's imperfections." Neiman Marcus' Saks' Fifth Avenue children's Recurring dream line. Note Filipino-inspired Last Chi stra Helena told Richard, "I terno siecves, katya HARIA have I yet a to see now for many years, al-AND AT MA A P AT ways with the family as priority. I want to have my turn now-will you give it to me?

cided to leave. The family made it very hard for me. I didn't realize that leaving him also meant saying goodbye to a country that I loved. With \$10,000 borrowed from a friend, I fled, not home to Barcelona, but to the Big Apple which I had once dreamed of exploring. I was 32.

### Humbling

"The years in New York were most hum-bling," relates Helena. "At first I was cocky—I had talent, lots of experience, a great portfoho. I applied from the top of the line, Oscar de la Renta, to the middling boutiques. The big fashion houses felt I was overqualified and would only be unhappy as an apprentice. The middle management of smaller boutiques, however, would not take in a pro like me who would threaten their jobs.

"After a year in the States, I knew that the only way to survive was to tear off the best parts of my portfolio. It was easier to sell more popular stuff. I felt I was prostituting myself, specially when they wanted to hire me for my management skills rather than for my designing It was very painful.

"My first job was with a new designer named Regina Cravits. A friend brought me there to help Regina who was freaking out because her collection, which was showing soon, was turning out so badly. I took a look at it. This very desperate designer said, 'Do you know how to drape? Do you know what's wrong with my dresses? Can you fix it?' I said yes, yes, yes. I was able to turn around that collection. I worked with her for a while because she was grateful but soon had to leave because I had no papers."

Eventually Helena was able to penetrate the New York marker by manufacturing her own designs for women, teenagers and children on a small scale. But the payments were regularly late. To stay in business she always had to sell her receivables at a discounted price. It was very difficult. But she did penetrate the market. Helena's clothes were in all the box stores like Nieman Marcus and Saks

Pifth Avenue, Macy's, Bloomingdale's But she could not survive "I knew I would have to produce things I didn't like again, I refused to prostitute my art any longer" So Helena put up five tapas bars. They were a success. She knew how to cook since she was a child perched on a stool, imitating her mother.

"At that time I was already married to Richard Mander, who is the love of my life. We have an only child, Theo, now 21, who asks me why I was so much fun when I was raising Tanya

In and so they sold their house

to I to the he restaurants and their

mets to pursue Helena's re-

to the Philippines and start-

ng dream of going back

omething meaningful,

New York in 1981 by famous fashion photographer Alan Kapian of the Azabache crew-Luigi Javier, **NYC** harrstylist born in the Philippines; Helena; Maning Obregon, Fil-Am NY Terres fashion illustrator, Ruben Nazareth, Penny **Turkell and Dennis** Tan, Azabache stylists

HELENA

dancing in

New York. Self-

after her arrival.

KATYA GUERRERD AND

PHOTO taken in

portrait soon

something different

"When I was a child, my grandmother on my father's side lived with her brothers and sisters in the Philippines," relates Helena, "Her father was a military doctor during the Spanish-American war. In 1898, when the Americans won the war the family was forced out.

They departed for Spain, taking with them the yayas, the servants and a slave who had been given as a wedding present. Whenever she visited her grandmother she was served the sinigang, arroz caldo or morisqueta tostada that her grandmother had learned to cook in the islands. Helena's father sometimes talked of visiting yaya this or yaya that in some nursing home in Spain.

Once or twice a year, Helena's grandmother would call the children together and reverently open an old boul from the Philippines that had belonged to the help. In it were sayas and fine piña baro (blouses) with butterfly sleeves. Also magnificent photographs of the servants dressed in that finery, carrying their white wards. Her grandmother somehow felt that this beautiful life had been stolen from her

### Genetic memories

When I was living in WackWack, my grandmother came from Spain to visit me," relates Elena. "She was aiready old but had one of these awakenings. She began to remember old narive luliables and singing them. The

words were mostly jumbled and couldn't be understood sat was like her surgeing that had been diluted through the years. But it but t ap in me is a and very early

Philippine connection.

When I met Wahoo it was ake a magic door had opened It was all those genetic memories. My parents were not allowing me to study in Paris, they said I was too young But I needed to fly! Wahoo provided the wangs. It was his function in my life to take me to where my destiny was. I will forever be grateful for that.

Now Helena is back. To stay. She has a big project which involves a beautiful tiny island in northern Palawan named Mangenguey.

Will it be something like Boracay? "Not by any means," says Helena. "Heaven knows we do not need another first class tourist spot." Will it be another Azabache? "Neither I do not live in the past. The world has changed, people have changed, I have changed." She envisions Mangenguey to be a 21st-century literary salon, a place where intellectuals, arnsts and leaders can meet for good conversation, music, poetry, happenings. It will be open to foreigners and locals, not aim ted to the rich, a bonding of mind and spirit

Mangenguey is the name of the island but also the name of a kind of "society" that He.ena wants to help evolve. Mangenguey, the society, will involve Itself in ecological conservation and also in the preservation of Filipino arts and crafts, which are now dying because people cannot live on what they earn making thera. Through its creative studio, Mangenguey will redesign and develop Filipino heritage products for distribution to exclusive interistional markets abroad That way ryelihoods will be created. The enicept is still vague at the corners.

Mangenguey will be a society dedicated to preservation of nature and the human ways Heiena. And so it is not only in but in all the Philippines, and in He-CF 1 v TC 4FI

There are many souls with big visions that ist remain up there. It requires an entirely itterent set of abilities to concretize a dream. One of them is knowing how to attract the right talents, how to put the correct energies together and allow them to create their own magic. Helena is a dream catcher. People have nor forgotten her capacity to move mountains. In the meantime, she will have to work on how to popularize a heduva name like Mangenguey.





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daughter of engineer Rogelio and Esther Balo, married recently at the Manila Metropolitan

Cathedral. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Manila Hotel. JC Buendia designed

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquire, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



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DELIVA BAGARES

the wedding gown.

Darryi Hannah "Anna" Santiago Deliva, daughter of Dhey and Mannie Deliva and granddaughter of veteran photojournalist Edgardo Santiago, married recently Joseph "Kobe" Illescas Bagares, son of Emily and Arthur Bagares, in civil rites at the Manila City Hall. Reception was at Wah Yuen Restaurant, Manila.



BRAVO-GALVAN

Francis John C. Bravo, son of Dr. Franklin and Lity Bravo, and Jatheryn L. Galvan, daughter of Salvador and Irene Galvan, exchanged wedding wows recently at St. Therese Parish, Dagupan City.



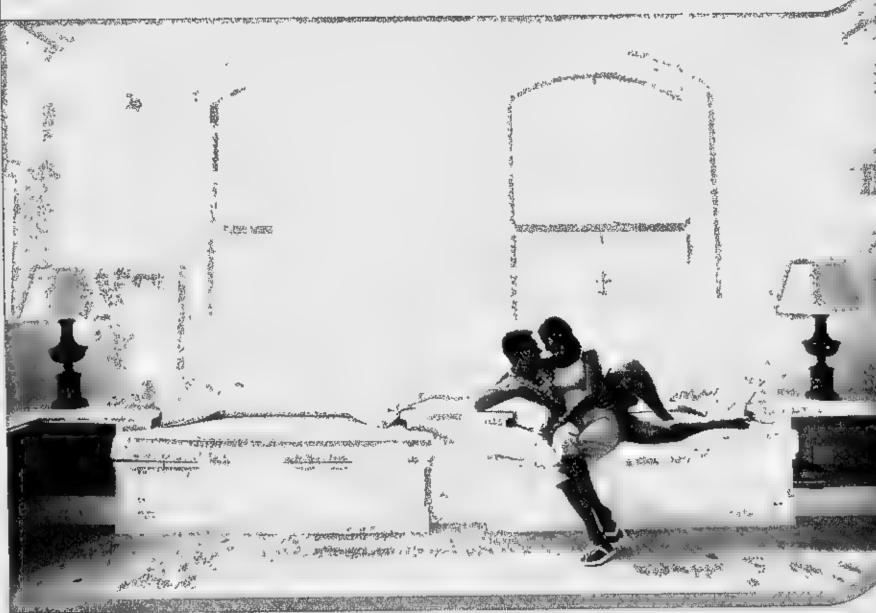
FONTIVEROS RIANO Ronald Fonti-

Ronald Fontiveros, son of Gilbert Jr. and Carmen Fontiveros, and Sheila Maria Riano, daughter of Napoleon and Norma Riano, will exchange vows on April B at the Shrine of Jesus,

The Way, The Truth and The Life, Macapagal Avenue, Passy City. Reception will follow at Coconut Palace, CCP Complex. The gowns of the bride and her entourage were designed and executed by Paul Mateo of The Wedding Day of Makati City and Cavite City.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE



JUNIOR bridesmand Gabby Fregil, secondary sponsors Pamela Syling, Michelle and Jeanne Fregil, groomsman Vajo Fregil, secondary sponsors Scott Syling, Carlo Ponferrada and Ben Colayco

# Business associates become lifetime partners



THE BRIDE and groom at the garden of The Manor in Camp John Hay, Baguio City, where the wedding took place





PDI OPINION editor Jorge Aruta, PDI food columnist Micky Fenix, Boy and Yen Makabenta

B USINESS ASSOCIATES JERE Fregil and Cielo Regino decided to bring their partnership beyond the corporate world when they exchanged wedding vows recently.

Being both practical persons, the couple decided on a casual yet elegant affair sans fanfare. Only immediate family, close friends and business colleagues attended.

At The Manor in Baguio City, they had two weddings—an early-morning private ceremony at the St. Joseph Pacdal Church with just the couple's parents and relatives in jeans and casulocel, with the family and guests formally dressed this time.

The Thanksgiving Mass was officiated by the binde's cousin, Father DJ de los Reyes, S.J., who was also the coordinator. Regino walked down the garden path in a simple champagne-colored Michi Calica gown escorted by her dad, Chito Regino. Her colleague at Unilever, Manny Aquino, sang "That's Ali."

The ceremony was highlighted by the couple's recitation of their personalized marnage wows, not the usual "I dos." Fregil's children, Vajo and Gaby, read messages welcoming their "Tita Cielo" to the family

The three-day reumon of members of two families from different parts of the world, which involved partying every day, ended with more partying at the wedding reception.

The reception had no presidential table. The newlyweds mingled with their guests that included relatives from the Chinese side of Fregil's family and Regino's Filipino relatives. They enceed their own wedding.

An audio-visual presentation portrayed the newlyweds as "Shrek" and "Princess Fiona." Instead of the traditional toss of one bouquet, several bunches of flowers were thrown. The woman who did not catch one became the "it" girl.

The men did the limbo rock, and the bachelor who was unable to go under the bar was the

"it" boy.

Both young and not-so-young danced all

The evening was capped by a fireworks dis-



IERE and Cielo with his parents, Margie and Joe Fragil



THE BRIDE'S family: dad Chito, mom Neny and brothers Mike and Anton Regino



JUN RAMOS, Leddie Cruz, mom Neny and father of the bride, Chito, with his visiting siblings from the US, Millette Suarez and Imelda Lones, and cousins from Florida, David and Desiree Kim with haby Minjog Basilio, Imelda Lones and architect Raul Locan



PRINCIPAL sponsors: Errol Chan, Lillian Uy, Perry Syling, Leah Makabenta, Agnes Basilio, Ambassador Tony
Bacilio, Imelifa i ones and architect Baul Locsm

### Separated woman can't get a job

### DEAR EMILY,

Last week, i went for a job interview. The position was for a customer service representative in Makati. I felt uneasy because I hadn't worked since I'd been a mom and a housekeep-

er for so long.

I failed the second interview.
The interviewer was honest with me. First, she said my English wasn't fluent and, second interviewer.

ond, I didn't impress her.
What should I do? Since I lack the money to go back to school, where can I get materials on English 101 in the workforce? How should I present

myself-what is the proper attire for a job interview?

I'm desperate to work since I have a lot of family issues to resolve. I had to move out of the house because my brother has a disturbing drug history. I am also separated from a husband who's a gambler.

So far, I've been a burden to my mom and sister, who is an overseas Filipmo worker. I want to be financially independent from everyone.

TRENE

It took a bit of time to read your letter because you used text messaging language and abbreviations.

Emily
A. Marcele

Don't focus your mind on an office job where English is a must for both written and oral communication. If you didn't learn much English when you were younger, you'd have difficulty learning and catching up now—considering you barely have time for yourself.

have time for yourself.
To learn a language well, you

have to immerse yourself in it—read it, speak it, hear it and know it by heart. You have to know grammar, vocabulary and spelling. You can't use text anguage or phrases and honestly think that you can aiready speak

English:
English is easy to learn while you're in school. You have your classmates and teachers to practice with. But now that you're much older, out of school, with household chores and kids, and this and that to do—learning the language is now a tall order. It is not doable if you want it done

ght. With your determination and

willingness to work, I don't think you should even bother applying in companies that use the English language all the time. There are so many jobs where you won't

meet proficiency in it at all.

Think deep and ask yourself what your strong points are. Are you good in seiling? Then hook up with people in that trade and learn the ropes of real estate or multilevel marketing. If you're good with your hands and are creative, try dressmaking, or cooking. And when you go to apply, be pleasant and dress simply. Hey, you never know!

We all have roles to play and jobs to do in this life. They can be

big and small. Not everyone has the facility to speak more than one language. But that should not be a deterrent to pursue a dream.

Don't be a "square peg in a round noie," as the saying goes. Find the job you'll be most comfortable and happy doing Start small but think big Remember what they say about small steps. ?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIREN. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7-15 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104-3 FM.



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# **Sunday LIFESTYLE** John Paul II's first death anniversary April 2

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS MARKING THE first death anniversary of Pope John Paul II who died April 2, 2005, in Rome. Not only Catholics are praying for him and to him, asking for help, but people from other religions, as well

Four kings, six queens and 70 heads of state, including President Glona Macapagal Arroyo, and leaders of other religious sects attended the funeral Mass to a great Pope last year in St. Petér's Square.

Hector A. Reyes of the Rosary way 70x7x Movement, a lay Marian movement, began vigil of "silence and hiddeness" last March 24, the day of the consistory for the 15 new cardinals in

This lay Manan movement accepts spiritual bouquets for the early canonization of Pope John Pau, II. Write to Hector Reyes at 145 Gen. San Miguel St., Caloocan City 1400.

### Miraculous plan

How the Monasterio de Tarlac on a hill in San José, Tarlac, was built by the Servants of the Risen Christ can only be part of God's miracu-



Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the community of 21 monks, including six priests, said the land was donated by the government through the office of Tarlac Gov. José "Apeng" Yap in 2002.

The complex now consists of a hermitage house, dormitories, prior's house and Oratory or prayer room. The Servants of the Risen Christ serve in the Parish of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Ramos, Tarlac Fr Cortez is the parish

A sister congregation, the Handmaids of the Rusen Christ, take care of an orphanage nearby and a home for the elderly. Their formation house is in Villa Teresa, Angeles City.

Another sister congregation, the Obiates of the Risen Christ composed of nine nuns, live in

Pilar Village, Las Piñas City. The Contemplatives of the Risen Christ in Ramos, Tarlac, spend their time praying in the Adoration Chapel

Fr. Archie said more professionals were entering the religious life. His sister Raquel became a Handmard of the Risen Christ and took the name Sister Mary Pauline. She will be professed on May 13 in the Sacred Heart Parish in Angeles

Among the priests in the community is Polish Fr. Jhon Iglichi, who used to serve in the office of Pope John Paul II.

Fr. Archie entered the seminary immediately after high school. He first went to St. Camillus Seminary, then took up his Theology at the University of Santo Tomas Central Semmary. He said, "It was God who arranged my priestly studies, according to His pian. He guided me to put up the order, so more men could serve Him as priests." Two engineers are among Fr. Archie's

The Monasterio de Tarlac also serves as a retreat house. Those interested can text 0916-



The Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay hosted recently the meeting of the Abbot President's Council of Visitors and the 7th Meeting of BEAO (Benedictine Superiors from East Asia and Oceania)

Y, APRIL 2, 2006

Aside from Abbot president Bruno Marin, OSB, of the Subiaco Congregation, also present were Abbot President Timothy Kelly of the Cassinese Congregation; Abbot Josep Soler of Montserrat, Spain, Abbot Stephen of Vietnam, Abbot Albert of Germany and Abbot Tarcisio Narciso of Manila, among others.

Fr. Mark But.in, OSB, of AIM (Aid International Monastere) which sponsored the BEAO meeting, was also there.

Everyone loved the natural beauty of the monastery in Malaybalay, the solemn liturgy, the silence and the truly Benedictine hospitality of the small community headed by Prior-Administrator Fr. Savio Ma. Siccuan, OSB.

### Romblon fiesta

Devotees of St. Vincent Ferrer in Rombion and those living in Metro Manila will flock to the Diocesan Shrine of St. Vincent Ferrer in Odiongan, Rombion, for the fiesta on April 5.

The image of the saint will be carried in a fluvial procession at 8 a.m., April 4, from the church to the sea. Both Catholics and Aglipayans will form. At 5 p.m., there wil, be a procession around the town. The Concelebrated Fiesta Mass, officiated by Bishop Taisok, will be held at 7:30 a.m., Apri. 5.

The saint is bathed and water flowing from his body is put in bottles and used to bathe the sick Former panish priest Fr Agustin Gialogo has seen people get well after the bath.

Bro. Dading Pamplona and Sis. Suzie Morales have issued this appear. "Through the initiative of our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Altaire O. Fernandez, and with the assistance of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee, our parish has launched a campaign to raise funds for the construction of a bigger church and convent...on the lot given by Gonzala Morales. .at St. Vincent Ferrer Village, Real, Calamba City."

Those wanting to help can call (049)5451916 or write to Fr. Altaire Fernandez at the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish at the above address. Thank you for your kindness

### Renewal

Archbishop Ramon Argueiles will guide Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls during the Lenten recodection 8 a.m. 4 p.m., April 8, at the Manila Seedling Bank, Quezon Ave. cor. Edsa. The public is invited. Registration fee of Pi00 will cover lunch and snacks. Text 0918-9290603 or call 5312157. Theme is "Persona, Conversion as Key to National Renewal."

Antonio Nazario passed away at the Home of the Elderly of the God Loves Community in Agoo, La Union. For details, call Brother Cesar 0917-7959565.

### Recollection

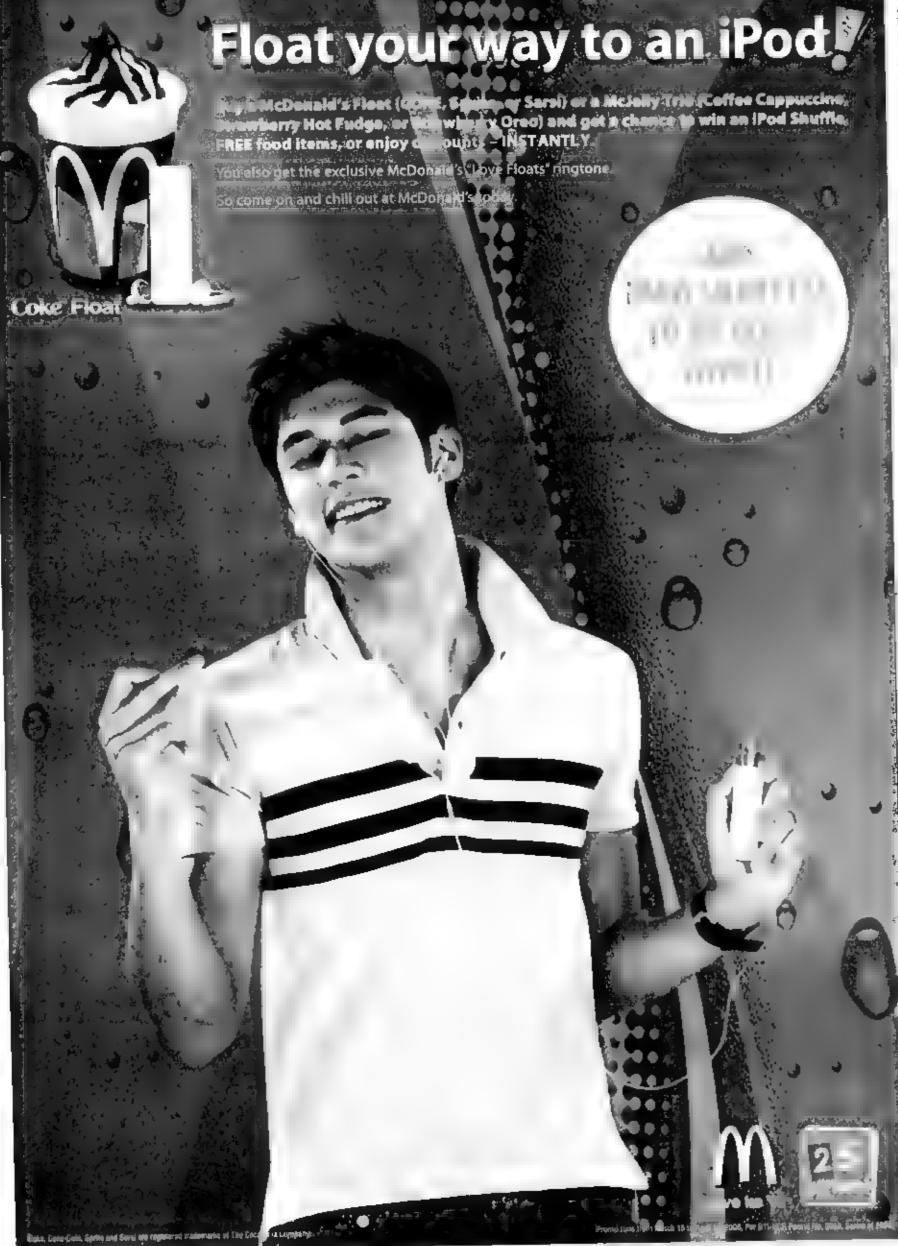
Pacem priests Fr. Tony Catalbas and Fr. Israel Augosto will lead a recollection of employees of Harbour Centre and R2 Builders at 8,30 a.m., April 8, at the Harbour Centre, Vitas, Tondo.



THE ABBOT president of the Benedictine Subjaco Congregation, Fr. Bruno Marin, OSB (second from right), delivers his "thank you" and farewell speech at the end of the meeting of the Council of Visitors at Transfiguration Monastery. Also in photo are (from left) Fr. Abbot Tarcislo Narciso, OSB, of Manifa; Fr. Abbot Josep Soler, OSB, of Montserrat, Spain; and Fr. Prior Savio Siccuan, OSB, of



SERVANTS of the Risen Christ in Monasterio de Tarlac in San José, Tarlac



HOW TO JOIN:

Every purchase of a Float (COKE, Sprite, or Saral) or Mouelly Trio (Strawberry Hot Fudge, Strawberry Oreo, or Colleg Cappaceino) at any McDonald's butlet nationwise from March 15 to April 15, 2006 equites you to a post-off card

The poet-off card gives you a chance to: a Win I of 400 iPod Shuffles Win FREE food Items like: Com McDip, Twister Fries, or Sig Mac

 E:njoy discounts like: P10 off on a Big Mac
P10 off on a Filet-O-Fish
FREE Go Big Time Coke

P 10 off on a Quarter Pounder with Chases . P 10 oil on a McChicken

 The peet-off card also gives you the exclusive "Love Ploats" ringtone. To download the ringtone,
you must fext-in the unique code to 29759 using the following format Monotone for non-MMS phones, lest MCDO <space> printed code! <apace> #t to 29766
 Polylone for MMS phones; lest MCDO <apace> printed code <apace> P to 29766
 Truetone (for WAV capable phones\* tost MCDO <apace> (printed code) <apace> T to 29766

Ex MGDO ABC123 P (sond to 29769) You will receive the relieving Reply Message. Ut LOVE FLOATS (one will be went 2 a shortly Tell or fronds abilid McDonald's descartal P2.50tbd (DT) NCR Pormit 0388. Series of 2006.) The ringlene cost (P +5) is waived for the promotion. However, the subscribers will be billed the download fee of P2.50 by their service provider

If you're the lucky winner of an IPod Shuttle, there are two ways to claim your prize: If you're a resident of Metro Manife or nearby provinces (Batanges, Cavite, Lagune, Pampenge, Fizza). you must claim your iPod Shullle at the McDonald's Head Office at: 17/F Citibank Canter, Pased de Rosas,

Maketi City, Irom Monday to Friday, Rem to 4pm. b. If you're a provincial winner, you can claim your iPod Shuffle by showing the restaurant menager your winning card. The IPod Shuttle will be available at the McDonaid's outlet where you got the peer-off card two weeks after you notify the manager

5. Winners of the IPod Shuttle must present the winning peet-oil card, proof of purchase, will identification with photo (i.e. driver's ficence, passport, NBI clearance, SSS, TIN, voter's ID, etc.) in claiming the prize at the McDonald's Head Office or at the McDonald's outlet where hershe won.

8. You can instantly claim your FREE food or discount at any McDonald's outlet upon presentation Redemption period is unit 60 days from end of promo period. All undefined prizes after the 60-day period

will be fortested in favor of Golden Arches Development Corporation with prior approval from DT 8. Employees of Sponsors and Advertising Agency for this prome (Golden Arches Development Corporation, CCSPI, TCCSC, StarCom, DDB Philippines, Doweys & Benz Marketing and Communications Company) including their relatives up to the second degree of contangunity or affinity are not qualified to join this contest

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MASURKA chal (P68,000)Streamlined but multi-imensiona

Dimensioné's compact pieces are ideal space-saving solutions

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Get AHEAD this Summer!

Text by Alex Y. Vergara Photos by Chito Vecina

HE GROWING popularity of townhouses condo units among today's young Filipinos only partly explains the success of Dimensioné Indeed, the furniture chain's streamlined and compact pieces offer ideal space-saysolutions to stressed-out urban-

Despite adopting such a no-friles approach, however, Dimensioné is able to incorporate trendy, functional and even elegant elements to merchand.se Therein hes its true and enduring appeal among homeowners on the lookout for reasonably priced yet modern pieces.

"Our goal has been clear from the start," says Cisco brand Lumbad, manager of Dimensione "We cater to the modern-day fiving requirements of young couples and single yuppies in search of economical yet stylish ways to live."

Another proof of Dimensioné's growing appeal over the years (it started in 1976 with a single outlet owned and operated by Ben Chan) is its increased visibility. Apart from its eight stand-alone stores housed in some of the country's major shopping malls, the brand's presence extends to Our Home outlets at SM Megamail, SM City Fairview and SM City Bacoon

"Aithough we've been offering selected items that go well with big to medium-sized homes," says Lumbad, "it would be correct to say that Dimensioné's intention has always been to focus on maximizing amited spaces."

But its appeal goes beyond the four corners of the home, as Dimensione has a wide selection of quality "contract" pieces that are proving to be a hit among big corporate clients -from cafes to fast food chains, banks to corporate offices -such as Starbucks, McDonald's, Citibank, Pancake House and Yellow Cab P.zza.

its contract pieces, which primarily include industrial-strength tables and chairs, are imbued with the same characteristics as items meant for

STREAMLINED/F4



### Sunday LIFESTYLE



DYNAMIC couple 6d and Margarita Delgado



**BACCHUS** owner Clifford and Melissa Lichaytoo



FRIENDLY neighbors Chu-chu **Madrigal and Mandy Eduque** 



CLOSE friends Gina de Venecia and Merl Pineda



**BOLTON** fans Abby and Jun de



SHANG family Jarlath Lynch and

# Reminiscing with Sergio Mendes music

IFE DOES UNFOLD IN mysterious ways. One about building dreams over everything can be taken away. When challenges happen, they are difficult to comprehend, so my attitude percussion rhythm is to think that when life closes a door, there are always other doors to open, to explore and to continue pursuing even bigger dreams.

Although one may get frustrated and enraged about the circumstances that life deals out, the key to move forward is to be encouraged about the Tessa future. A helpfu. Prietobaim to the wounded soul is music. Music lifts

burdened spirits and truly enlightens the mind Recently, it has been uplifting to watch the many concerts by international artists of decades past. My husband, Dennis, and I have had many trips to the Araneta Coliseum to sit quietly and reminisce while astening to so many memorable songs.

TESSA!

Valdes

Upon the invitation of philanthropist Baby Arenas, Dennis and I watched the recent concert of Sergio Mendes. It was indeed a happy road down memory lane with songs like "Day after Day" and "When I Think

Although the crowd that I can be so passionate evening was closer in age a decade, but in an instant, to my mother, I enjoyed dancing to the upbeat

> I'm Going Out of My Head." This Brazilian artist, now based in New York, has been around since I can remember with his original band-Sergio Mendes and Brazil '66. Although half the crowd that evening was closb er in age to my mother, I did enjoy the evening dancing to the upbeat percussion rhythm Dining and wining

The world is indeed so small. Just a few weeks before, I was during with the proprietor of Chateau Lynch Bages, Jean Michel Cazes, at a spectacular, five-course, gournet dinner at Old Manila Restaurant in Manila Peninsula. Hosted by Bacchus owners Alex and Clifford Lichaytoo, 75 wine-lovers feasted on sumptuous food and the premium wines of Chateau Lynch Bages from the Bordeaux region in France

Somewhere between the 2003 L'Ostal Cazes, the premium wine of Jean Michel from the Languedoc region of France, and the three or four vintage reds of Chateau Lynch Bages, Jean Michel told me that he happens to be a really close friend of Sergio Mendes. Together with their wives, they have even spent several sum-



JOANN Salgado, Justice Consuelo Santiago, Baby Arenas, Tessa, Rachel Arenas, Willie Revillame and Liz Revillame

mers in the winery in Bordeaux.

They are such good friends. Jean Michel joked that Sergio is a lousy sanger but a brilliant composer and music arranger. They both have a passion for wine and so annually, they share their vast collection of vintage

Still on my final days of being carnivorous—I just can't seem to start being a vegetarian again!—I enjoyed the Angus beef tendersom with the 1995 vintage red, now available in Bacchus Wine Shop (contact 8135022) in Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

For me, the evening was so informative as we went through the different vintages and tried to comment on the structured, fruity taste as distinct from the earthy, bold flavor. Not a wine expert, I was just happy to be getting pleasantly acquainted with my favorite that evening, Chateau Lynch Bages 1988, a very classic vintage showing great structure and finesse--at least that's what the brochure says.

Unfortunately, I could not enjoy the dessert-Valrhona chocolate fondant with white chocolate sorbet, chocolate macaroons and chocolate cherry tarts served with vintage port and cognac-since I am sacrificing by giving up chocolates for Lent. I was also good and stuck to only one or two glasses of wine, since I am still

nursing my 10-month-old Athena. After all that reminiscing with Sergio Mendes, we watched another concert-Michael Bolton, a balladeer of more recent vintage. Makati Shang PR Joy Wassmer invited us to the concert held just last week. Makati Shangri-La was the official residence of Michael B and Volvo escorred him to and from the concert venue.

In one of life's little coincidences. we recognized the Volvo chauffeur, Rosel de Guzman, ás he was also the one who drove us to the airport when we participated in the Asia Volvo Masters Golf Tournament late last year. Rosel is in charge of Volvo Quality Control but likes to work hands on by driving VIPs like Michael Bolton

The Shangri-La group has been ag gressively putting their mark in the real estare market with the launch of the Grand Shang Tower. This prime residential condominium has amazing five-star amenities such as fully equipped gym, spa, tropical style pool, function rooms and a colorful children's play area. The best part about living there is that it's a stone's throw away from Greenbelt shopping. The Makati skyline is quite magnificent from the top floors of the Grand Shang.



Our world is filled with clutter and unwanted energies. It is an excellent idea to annually clean the air in your home. Ringing chunes, burning incense and sending positive intentions to all areas of the house can definitely change its energy.

A more effective way to promote auspicious vibes is to do charity work. Visiting beauty queen/actress Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas decided to raise funds for the Leyte landslide victims with a chanty bazaar and variety show. She spearheaded the bazaar at the Market! Market! and invited several personalities to sell old clothes. Ruffa raised over P1 million for the Red Cross projects in Leyte—quite an achievement!

INOURCER Superi's Tim Yap and I set up what was undoubtedly the most colorful booth, festooned with feathered outfits, beseweled accessories and furry tops. I was shocked that



STUNNING beauties Snow Tago, Donita Rose, Ruffa Gutlerrez-Bektas, Gretchen Barretto and Assunta de Rossi-Ledesma



LIZ Revillame, Willie Revillame, Christine Bersola-Babao and Julius Babao



**SERGIO Mendes with Nene** FILEPHOTO Araneta people were actually interested in my

unusual clothes, mostly creations

from local designers. Several suiteas-

es were all sold out. Although I was

thinking of keeping some of the out-

fits for future theme parties, it was a

more pleasant feeling to be able to

help up. ft the lives of people who

have been so affected by this tragedy.

Every day is truly a new beginning!

If we all learn to share whatever

biessings we have with one another,

just think of all the small miracles

that we would be helping to create

And with many small miracles, surely

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquir-

the big ones cannot be far off

er.com.ph

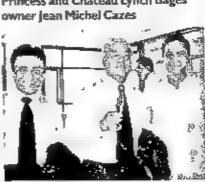
Plus the sale de-cluttered my closets



LOVELY ladies Kathy Zita, Nena Tantoco and Mila Lacson



**BACCHUS head Alex Lichaytoo, Sea** Princess and Chateau Lynch Bages



RUSTAN'S head Rico Tantoco, Ed Lacson and Shang's Yom Zita



CIBO sisters Gaita Fores and Biedes Fores and cousin Ria Ojeda



CEBU Pacific couple Jay and Larsce



SUPPORTIVE parents Annabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez



BABY Arenas, Dr. James Dee and Do Ejercito



**CHARITABLE** beauty Ruffa Gutjerrez selling her clothes.



SO CLOSE!

**I**chael



AYALA Center Cebu's Store of the Year—Nike Park: Paolo Tuason of Nike Park; Jim Ayala, Ayala Land president; Miguel Celdran of Nike Park; Miriam O. Katigbak, Ayala Land EVP and Ayala Malls Group head; and Rene D. Almendras; Cebu Holdings, Inc. president)



GRAND Store of the Year—Bayo: Fernando Zobel de Ayala; Miriam O. Katigbak, Ayala Land EVP and Ayala Malls Group head; Ferdie and Lyn Agustin of Bayo, Sonny and Corcor Bitong; and Jim Ayala, Ayala Land president

# Year's best retailers honored by mall

A YALA MALLS RECENTLY presented its 8th Annual Merchant Rewards. The reward program recognizes establishments that adhere to the highest standards of excellence and innovation. Awardees have distinguished themselves in retail in terms of visual merchandising, store operations and marketing

The special tribute to Ayala Malls merchants included a Merchant Forum in the morning at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, and the Awards Night at Greenbelt 3 Park.

Speakers during the forum were retail and creative experts Paul Husband, managing director of Husband Retail Consulting Ltd., Perdie Agustin, president of Lyncor, Inc.; and Jos Ortega, chair and CEO of BrandLab.

Awardees included trailblazers in the retail industry, top-performing stores and brands in Ayala Malls.

Ayala Land, led by Fernando Zobel de Ayala, hosted the event together with Jim Ayala, president of Ayala Land, Inc., Miriam Kangbak, executive vice president and Ayala Malls Group head; Rene Almendras, president of Cebu Holdings, Inc., Rowena Tomeldan, vice president of Ayala Malls, and the management team of Ayala Malls.

Judges were Catherine Zobel de Ayala, Joji Lloren, Tina Periquet, Anton Mendoza, Angel Aquino, Myrza Sison, Digna Santoš, Pauline Suaco-Juan, Melvin Mangada and Vicky Ortega. Emcee was David Celdran and guest performer was Jasmine Trias.

The real stars, of course, were the winners themselves. Top winner at the 8th Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards was Bayo, Grand Store of the Year. It also received the Overall Marketing Excellence award.

Overall Visual Merchandising Excellence Winners were Louis Vuitton (foreign) and Carbon (local). Stores of the Year were Tyler for Glorietta, Kids of Bayo for Alabang Town Center and Nike Park for Ayala Center Cebu.

Store Operations Excellence awards went to Glorietta's Lacoste Shoes, Rockport, Lacoste Luggage, BO Active Eyewear, Schu, Geox, Tyler, People Are People and Toby's, Greenbelt's Gaudi, Alabang Town Center's People Are People, Bench Body, Charles and Keith, Nike Stadium and Kids of Bayo; and Ayala Center Cebu's Lacoste Apparel, Bayo, Nike Park, Levi's and Marks & Spencer.

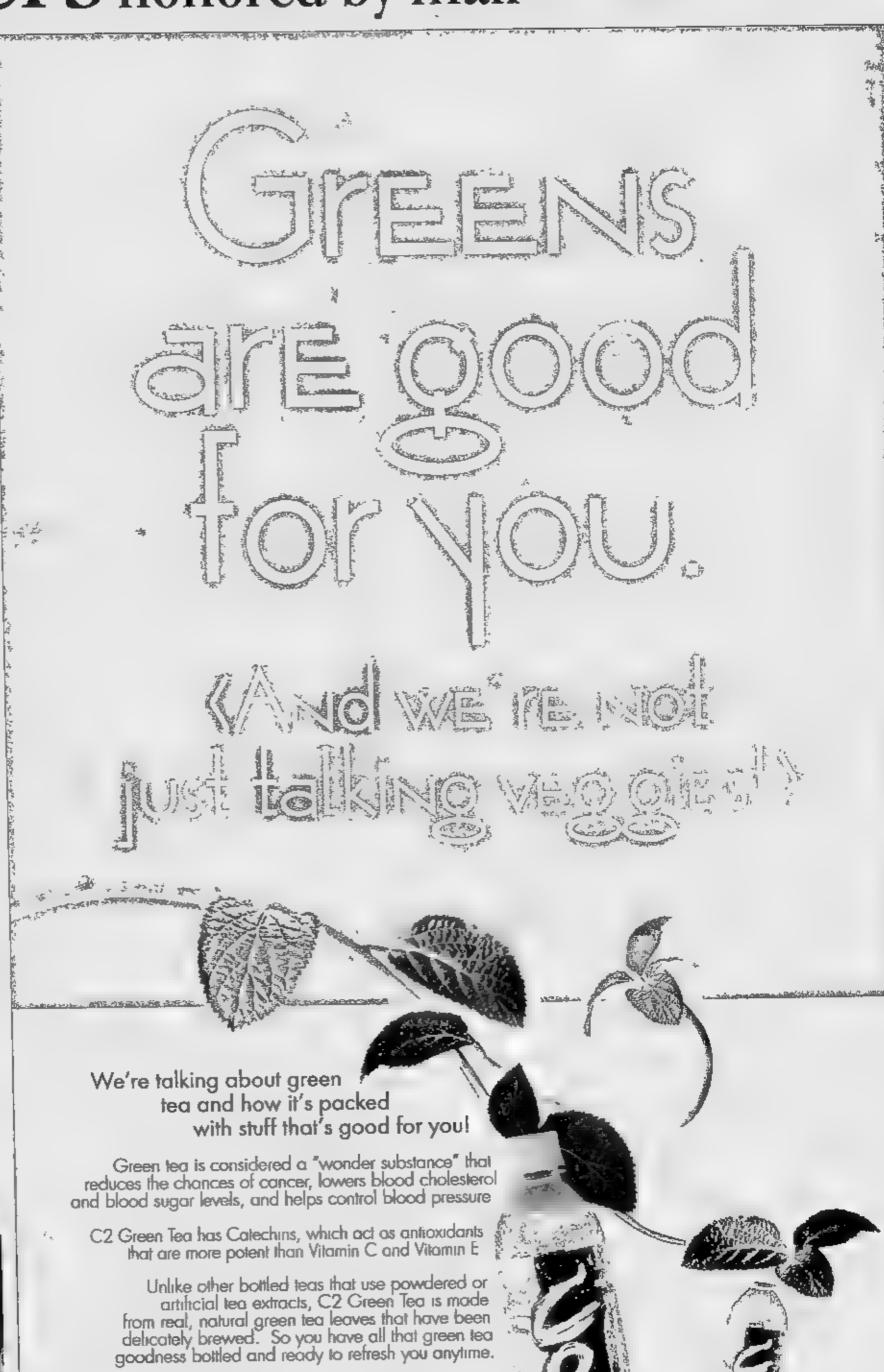
The Most Promising Retailers were All Flip Flops and Kids of Bayo in Glorietta, People's Palace in Greenbelt, The Good Earth and The 50th Avenue in Alabang Town Center; and Play 2 Learn and Big Mao in Ayala Center Gebu.



GLORIETTA'S Store of the Year—Tyler: Emmanuel Pineda of Tyler



ALABANG Town Center's Store of the Year—Kids of Bayo: Corcor Bitong and Lyn Agustin of Kids of Bayo



So make it a habit to drink cool and clean C2

C2 Green Tea Is available in Peach, Apple, Lemon,

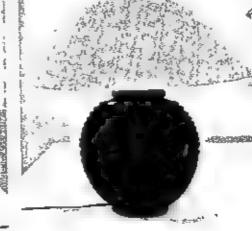
Plain, Plain Life & Lemon Life Flavors.

Nothing relaxes and recharges like C2 Green Teat

Green Tea! For once everybody will agree, here are greens that are good for you, that taste good too!







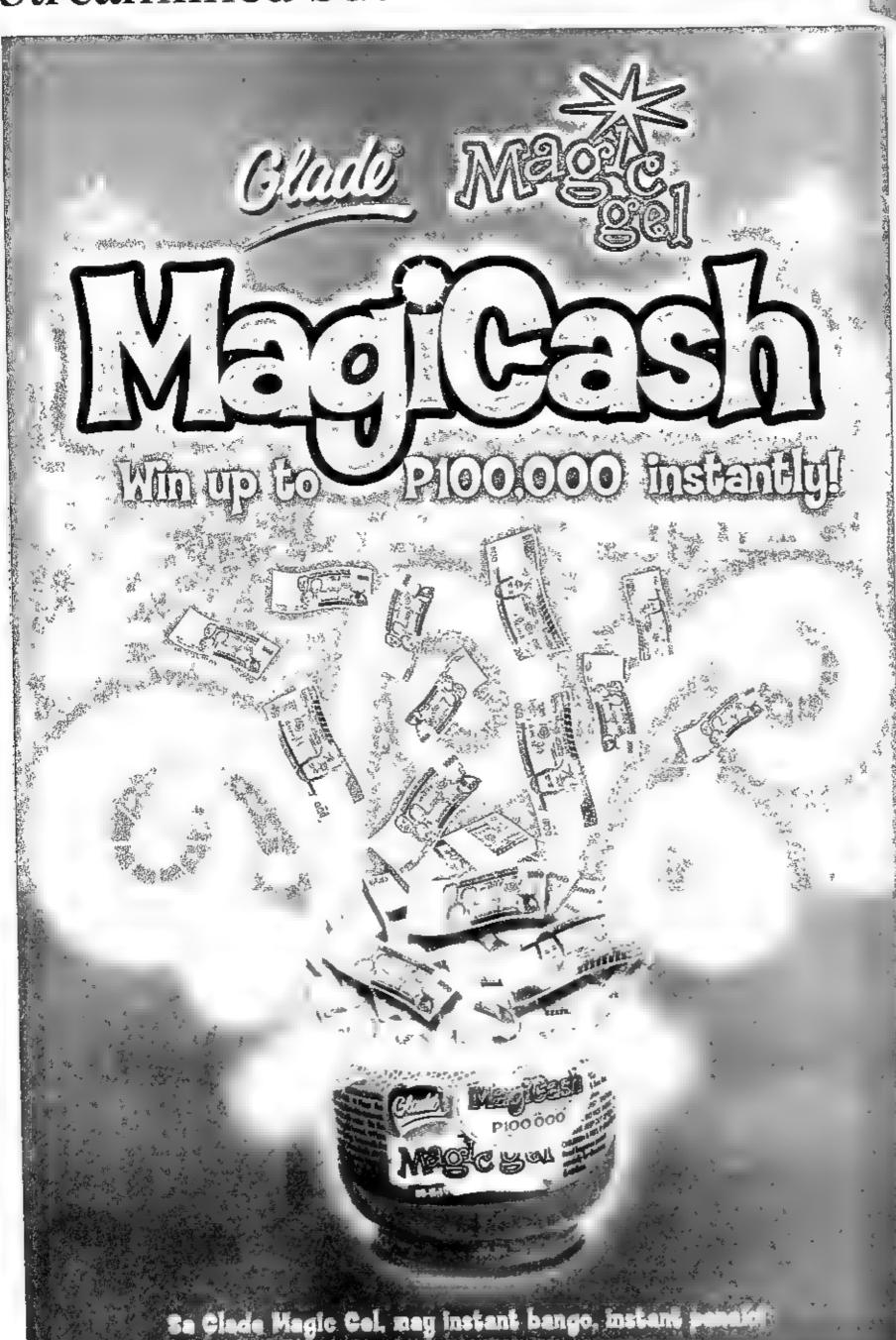
MASTER lamp (P6,885)

YATCH lamp (P7,885)

MASTER lamp (P6,885)

STREPE Bowl lamp (P5,885)

# Streamlined but multidimensional



### From page FI

the home compact, stylish and durable.
Another welcome feature among singles and newlyweds, of course, is Dimensione's reasonable prices. The products they carry, says Lumbad, have been carefully sourced from all over the world based not only on trendy colors, product dimensions and designs, but also

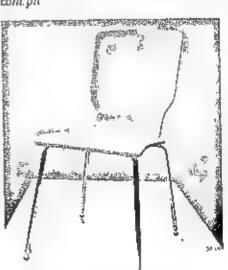
product dimensions and designs, but also on ideal price points

"But even if they're affordably priced, our pieces remain strong on such aspects as comfort and style," he adds.

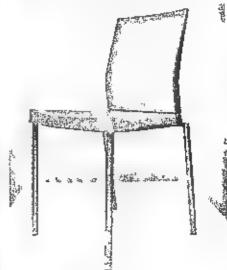
as comfort and style," he adds.

Living on one's own or moving to a new home with your own family has become a reassuring prospect with the help of home stores like Dimensioné

E mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



SQUARE-BACK Bunny chair (P1,695)



SEE Moo chair (P1,395)



SEE Moo bar chair in lime green (P1,995)

# HEART-SHAPED back Bunny chair (P1,695)

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2) Look males the cup for the MagiCash card to see if you're wen instant cash. You can win the following cash

If there is no oved health the powder methot, please by egain. The more Glade Magle Gel you buy means man chances of whentry. You may win more liter once.

3) Claim your prize by salling the toll-free nember on the wineing card. You'll be informed of the designated rademption area nement you.

4) Witness must proceed their MagiCash wishing card, 2 Valid (O's, TN No. issued by BM; and the

Per DOH BEAD Permit No. 0181 xeries of 2006

Garde Magic Gall product perchanded forestonal the came prize. De not accepte the eliver cooling on the winning agri or who your entry will be not need word. The security code on your winning Magicach can't will be waltheled before prizes will be the 5) Provio runs from March 1, 2006 to May 15 Camb prizes must be reduced on or July 16, 2006.

6) Taxes will be shouldered by S.C. Johnson 5 !

7) All S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. employees, distributors and agreease up to the 2nd degree of atticity and socranguintly are dequation from participating in the

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and a some on the rise

Text by Bibsy M. Carballo Photos by Romy Fernando, Malone Santos, Sandra Nepomuceno

NE SUMMER WAY BACK IN THE '70S, WE MUST HAVE been among the few intrepid souls who ventured into yet uncharted seas and unexplored lands when we took off on a whim for Basco, Batanes.

Armed with nothing but our sense of adventure, we boarded a PAL plane, then the only carrier servicing the island weekly. With us was the late great director Line Brocka and two of his friends, as he was then interested in scouring the shooing away the carabaos before we country for locations for his movies.

After an hour-and-a half flight, we caught sight of what appeared to be the dirt runway, a couple of carabaos lazing

about, and a group of grade school children running around, clapping their hands in welcome of the aircraft. The plane made several circles around the runway as we glimpsed the children made our historic landing.

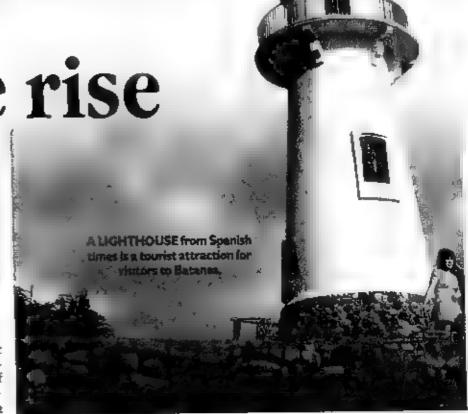
Upon deplaning, the kids were still there crowding us with silent curiosity. Who were these strangers, their eyes

seemed to ask, and why were they here? This served as our unique introduction to the island, and what was to follow.

We boarded a jeepney, which we were later told was the only one on the island, and asked the driver to take us to the church in town. The Filipino parish priest, whose name we have already forgotten, was surprised to see us. Immediately, he offered to house us even before we asked and serve as our unofficial tour guide during the week-long visit

### Smallest province

We were told Batanes is the smallest Philippine province in terms of population and land area (209 so km, half of which are hills and mountains) The pop-





Paix Roses in an in-house that special of The Legand Palamen. For agreeaffines, call 702-2750 to 04 w californ hand again E-mail: sales@leg Websites www.palawarespenerus supuph / www.legen/palawon.com.git. v Dowel and Hanaged by Legend Histor International Com

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9,999 NETT PER PERSON (for family of 4)

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Imagine an unspoiled out-of-town getaway in the country's last nature frontier Experiencé something different: Puerto Princesa and check-in to The Legend Palawan!

A mere 5 minutes away from the airport, breeze into the foyer and allow our friendly and professional staff to pamper you. Choose from among our 100 rooms to suit your needs, standard rooms for single travellers, de huxe soites with jacuzzis for the more discriminating visitors and our innovative Team Rooms -spacious be-level units that accommodate as much as 12 persons in 6 double-deck beds.

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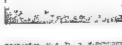
A busineseman's hotel, The Legend Palawan offers 24/7 connectivity to Manila and the rest of the global markets. Small and medium-sized function rooms are available for private meetings and seminars. And for larger conferences and events, we have the 1,100-senter Palawan Convention

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SCENERY for an artist's palette in the Batanes seascape



是是一种的感染的感染是一种的人,这种人,我们就是一个人的,我们就是这种人的人,我们就是一种人的人的人,也是这一个人的人的人,这种人的人,也是有一个人的人,我们就



A TRADITIONAL stone house in Sabtang

# on the rise

### From page G1

ulation then all over the province was a little over 11,000, with 40 percent concentrated in the capital Basco.

Ten small volcanic islands make up the province, only three of them inhabited-Sabtang, Itbayat and Batan with the capital Basco, plus Ivana, Uyugan, and Manatao which we visited

The islands of Sabtang and Itbayat were supposedly interesting locations, but we were not that adventurous as to venture out after hearing stories that one had to jump from the boat to the cliff at Itbayat, which didn't have a pier at that time. We also heard of people getting stranded in Sabtang due to bad weather and having to stay for months on the is-

Batan was sufficient for us at the moment. Taking the only jeep on the island, we toured the rolling hills that could only remind one of the Scottish highlands with similar small stone houses, except that the houses had thick cogon roofing, with carabaos and cattle grazing in the rolling hills. The entire scenario was of another country. There were no mpa huts to remind us that we were in the Philippines, and the radio blasted away with broadcasts from Talwan.

We found women in the fields garbed in the vacul, a traditional woven headgear of grass that kept the wearer cool during the day and warm during the rainy season. We never found this particular headgear in any other province

Batanes is the northernmost cluster of islands in the Philippines, home of the typhoons, closer to Taiwan than to the Philippine mainland (190 km south of Taiwan, and 280 km from Aparm) It is said that one could hear the cock crow all the way from Taiwan in Batanes, and it is the only province with winter from November to February, summer from March to May, the ramy season from June to October, and a two-week Indian summer sometime between September

and October. Apart from the weekly flight, with erratic schedules depending on the weather, a navy boat came once a year with supplies from Manila. Batanes was therefore as remote from the main, and as it was in culture and language. An thropolog sts described lyatan as an Austronesian language (not a di alect, but a language, the resi-

### 30 years later

The Batanes of today is totally different from our memories of 30 years ago. Although suli ravaged by typhoons, still small in population (only over 16,000 province-wide), still our only province with "winter" as a season, still blessed with unpolluted air, waters and picturepretty rolling hills and natural rock formations, we can count on our fingers the number of traditional stone houses and can no longer find women wearing the

Instead, the homes are of cement, especially in town centers, and the worll is found for sale in the marketplace as tourist mementos, and in the new Globe commercial. Technology has obviously ar rived in the form of Internet cafés, and the cell phone and ukny-ukny from Manila litter the many small shops in Basco.

The rolling hills are still as attractive as they were in "Hihintayin Ka Sa Langit" which beat Brocka to being the first to do a film on the islands. But today some of the hills are dubbed "Marlboro Country" and pretty soon, perhaps we will find there a "Brokeback Mountam."

The Department of Tourism has listed the province as an "emerging destinarion." There are various mns, led by the Batanes Resort with its six duplex-type cottages perched on a hill overlooking the rocky beach, and the Ivatan Lodge in town with its modest rates, both operated by the provincial government.

There are now more forms of transport-at least 50 seepneys in Basco and 30 more in the other municipalities, and tricycles all over Basco. However, there is still no moviehouse in Basco, and fastfood chains are unknown in this province.

Asian Spirit operates a twice-weekly direct flight from Manila, its other flights of the week include a stop-over in Tuguegarao. Batanes' roads are paved, and carabaes no longer roam the runway. Package tours are becoming popular with domestic and foreign travelers. Apart from its natural attractions, the province's other tourist stops include



CEMENT roads, combination of stone and cement houses, cogon roofing on some homes are common sights in Sabtang.



"UKAY-UKAY" shops with dothes brought all the way from Manda

vestiges of the Dominican presence in churches all over the islands, lighthouses that are always a photographic delight, and the house of the late international Ivatan artist Pacita Abad that now stands against the landscape and the skies as a loving tribute to the artist who has finally

come home to rest. The crime rate is low with most crimes commuted by transients, mostly Taiwanese who find it so easy to get to the slands. Along with crime and the tourists come the threat of destruction of the environment and cultural hermage And this is what this "emerging destina

### Protected zone

In 2001, Congress passed a law declaring the province as a permanently protected zone. That same year, the province also applied to be included in the Unesco World Cultural Heritage list. According the elders in the province, there are 539 cultural sites and 138 natural sites in the province up for consideration.

The unique wildlife of the province qualifies Batanes as a landscape and seascape deserving of protection due to its importance to migratory birds from Northeast Asia and Japan. The valichit, a small brown bird found only in Batanes every September, has of late diminished in numbers, a fate similarly suffered by the kuyab or grey-faced buzzard.

The traditional stone dwellings of limestone, reeds and grass roofs are also disappearing, although there are some to be found in Ivana and Uyugan, and on the island of Sabrang.

The median age in Batanes is 22. It is obviously a young population even if a good percentage leave for the mamiand to pursue a career. However, there are quite a number who acquire education in Manila and return home to practice what they have learned. Like the young and articulate OIC of Batanes Resort, Tess

Delatado. After graduating with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management at Arellano University in Manila, she quickly returned to Basco and now is one of the more vocal advocates of responsible tourism in the area.

She tells us stones of how foreigners have been showing such interest in the place that they have offered to buy the resort as well as portions of the province, with promises of helping the islanders protect their natural resources. But she is not easily swayed by their glib tongues. Perhaps her education in Manila has taught her that-not to be too trusting and too naïve.

Tess is caught in a dilemma that faces many of the young residents of this island paradise. Would they succumb to the temptation of letting in the moneyed investors who will develop the islands for commercial tourism and ultimately destroy its natural beauty? Or will they hang on to what they have and be content with being the backward province it still is today?

Or is there a middle ground, a way for responsible progress and eco-tourism? Only time and the next decade will tell.

Email the author at bibsymcar@ya%



PACITA Abad's house and museum on a hill in Basco



TEENAGE boys play the ubiquitous basketball game next to a comented version of the old stone house



COTTAGES of the Batanes Resort on the hills of Basco



RIOR of a traditional stone house in Sabtang



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PLASTIC surgeons have invented a machine that can 'melt away' body fat in a patient's lunchbreak -ULTRASHAPE. This treatment gets rid of unwanted bulges and unlike liposuction does not require surgery. FAST, EFFECTIVE and SAFE, it's the most advanced method of body contouring to date.

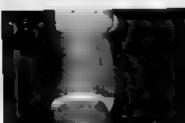
Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in Delaware, USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic



Before Ultrashape



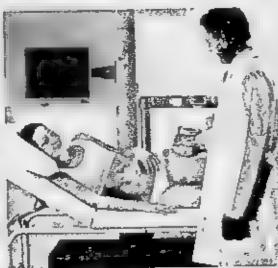
14 Days After Ultrashape



Before Ultrashape



28 Days After Ultrashape



surgeon and Yoram Eshel, PhD, MBA, a leading expert in medical physics with years 15 experience in high-power ultrasound technology. Together they set out to proneer noninvasive body

contouring. When they started Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Some form of liposuction had already started experimenting with ultrasound probes to liquely fat and make it easier to suck them out. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with a unique concept of Ultrashape.

Using a focused ultrasound beam, Ultrashape destroys fat cells Ultrashape promises an effectively in the stomach, thighs (saddlebags), lovehandles and average of about 2 cm in buttocks. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from a single treatment. outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasonic waves break down fat cells without damaging

blood vessels or other tissue such as skin, muscle, bone and nerves. From there, the broken down cells are absorbed into the patient's white blood cells and are then eliminated from the body through natural processes.

According to Dr. Eshel, "The inherent safety of our method lies in the fact that we only do half the traditional job compared to liposuction and let nature do the rest." Physiological clearance of the fat tissue occurs over a period of 3 weeks following the procedure, similar to the way the



body clears out damaged tissue found in a bruise

Normally about 4 sessions are recommended to fully achieve one's ideal figure. Women and men who have tried it are excited about the fact that immediate results were seen already after just a single session.

> Ultrashape promises an average of about 2 cm in a single treatment. It is an easy procedure. No anesthesia is required because it is noninvasive. You walk in, get the

treatment and walk out. It's as easy as that. There is no recovery period. Patients can resume their normal activities right after a treatment. It does not have the risks of liposuction and can be used to effectively deal with small problem areas of fat. Probably the safest and most effective non-invasive slimming treatment to date, Ultrashape is definitely a breakthrough in body contouring.

Ultrashape is now available at Marie-France. Call 894-BODY (2639) for your free consultation.

## Sunday LI

## TRAVELBRIEFS

#### Fun and games for beach lovers

WHITEROCK in Subic promises a lot of fun and games for Filipino beach lovers this summer. Men can jet ski, go kayaking or drive a speedboat. Women can get some pampering at the resort's Weilness Center with its two-inone promo prices on body, foot and facial

treatments. Children can enjoy the swimming pools, game room, KTV, heach volleyball, bowling center and, for the very young ones, the playpen. Other amenities include the jacuzzi at the Spa, better equipped gym, additional rest areas, free coffee and tea in all rooms, renovated bath and beach shower rooms, improved air-conditioning, plus added features at Greg's Waterworld, includ-

Pax draws lourists for different Palawan experience the country, Prento Psiocesa uniquely offices that variety. This is a amplication of the palawan page of the party of the palawan page of the page of





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#### Tagaytay visitors

OFFICIALS of Zichuan Town in Shandong Province, east of Beijing, visited Tagaytay Highlands recently. The SM Investment Corp., led by its chair, Henry Sy Sr., gave the Chinese guests, led by director Wang Shuhar, a tour of the Highlands. The Chinese visitors were impressed by the all-Western red cedar log cabin village, The Woodlands Belle Corp., winner of the "Best in Leisure Property Development" award during the 23rd edition of the National Consumers Awards and People's Choice Awards, is the developer of the Tagaytay Highlands, Midlands, and Greenlands properties.

#### More Paris flights

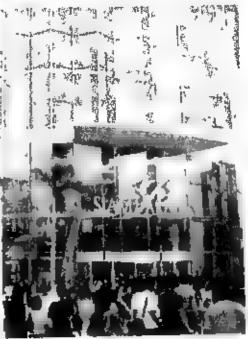
EMIRATES, the Dubai-based international ardine, has doubled daily flights to Paris, increasing both seat and cargo capacity. The air-line currently operates 12 flights a week to Paris. The increase in number of flights will offer customers greater flexibility. The additional flights will be serviced by the 237 seat A.rbus A330 200 aircraft, configured in three classes. Members of Skywards, Emirates' frequent flyer program, can earn Skywards Miles when flying in any class between Dubai and Paris in either direction

## Top agency

KORFAN national carrier Asiana Airlines has recognized Clark International Traves agency as one of the top travel agencies. As: ana's regional manager, Hyun II Kim, presented the Yoon Soo Cho, for the company's contribution to Asiana airlines' operations in Ciark Airfield. Aside from Manila and Clark, Asiana Airlines also fires to international destinations from the Cebu Mactan International Airport. Present during the awarding ceremony were Asiana Airlines passenger sales representatives Nikki Confiado and Abby Lobitana, Asiana Airlines acting GM for passenger Gisela Tibia, and acting passenger sales manager Jeannie Magluyan

## Shopping hotspot

SIAM Paragon, Bangkok's newest shopping destination, is just a flight away via That Air ways. The store has over 50 international and domestic jewerry makers. It also houses Thatland's largest supermarket (the Gourmet Market), a food court, upscale retail stores, luxury car display rooms, book stores, lifestyle shops, fashion, beauty and many others. Future developments include a five-star hotel (to be managed by Six Continents Hotels, owner of Siam Intercontinental), Asia's largest oceanarium (Siam Ocean World), a cinema and bowling complex, and even an opera theater (Siam Opera) Siam Paragon is a joint venture of The Mal. Group (operator of The Mall Department Stores, Emporium Shopping Complex and Siam Discovery Center) and Bangkok International Hotels Inc. That Airways now includes this new shopping mecca in its Royal Orchid Holidays tour packages. Call 8124744 (Makatı); 5280122 25 (Manila), (032)2322405 (Cebu) or www.thalatrways.com. That flies 12 times weekly to Bangkok.



SIAM Paragon

Mondays to Saturdays

Day before publication

12:00 noon

DEPARTMENT STORE College graduate
 Not over 40 years old
 At least 5 years releve

OPERATIONS - 3)

College graduate

Not over 40 years old

DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT HEAD

College graduate

College graduate Not over 40 years old

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Not over 40 years old

Conega graduate

managerial capacity

College graduate Not over 30 years old

College graduate Not over 30 years old

DEVELOPMENT - 3)

College graduate

At least 1 year buying experience

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS (SYSTEMS

Not over 40 years old

Female, not over 40 years old

College graduate

REGIONAL STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR

At least 5 years relevant experience in retail / sales operation in a managerial capacity

STORE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HEADS

with 3 years in a supervisory/menagerial capacity

years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

MERCHANDISE PLANNING AND CONTROL

Not over 40 years old All lesst 5 years exposure in retail operations, with

At least 5 years experience in all facets of finance, with 3

At least 5 years experience in auditing, with 3 years in a

At least 5 years relevant experience, with 3 years in a

At least 5 years relevant experience in warehousing operations in a retail set-up, with 3 years in a supervisory /

SUPERVISORS (FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS - 14)

**BUYERS (DEPARTMENT STORE / SUPERMARKET - 6)** 

> At least 1 year experience in a supervisory capacity

supervisory/ managerial capacity in a retail sel-up

3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

FINANCE DEPARTMENT HEAD

AUDITING DEPARTMENT HEAD

supervisory / managerial capacity

Must be a Certified Public Accountant

*WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT HEAD* 

MERCHANDISING DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR

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|DEPARTMENT STORE | SUPERMARKET | FOOD

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1006

Development Bank of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply. Delivery and Installation of the following Equipment:

Equ)pment	Quantity	Approved Budget*	Cost of Bld Documents
		Source of Fund: DBP	
Document Scanner	11	P 320,000.00	P 500 00
Duplicating Machine	1	P 550,000.00	P 500 00
Microfilming Machine	2	P1 800,000 00	P 500 00
Multimedia (LCD) Projector	9	P 630,000.00	P 500.00
Phoroptor Head	1	P 250,000.00	P 500.00
Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Four (4) units 3 Tonner and One (1) unit 2 Tonner Airconditioning Unit for DBP Head Office and Commonwealth Branch	1 lot	P 385,000.00	P 500.00

\*Bids received in excess of the ABC shar be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Expected Date of Delivery: June 2006

Scheduse of Activities:				
Partioulars	Date	Venue		
Pre-Bidding Conference	April 18, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9 00 a.m	' 6º/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City		
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of May 2, 2008 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6*/Floor DBP Building, Makati City		
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposats (Prospective bidders are encouraged to witness this activity)	May 2 2006 (Tuesday) at 1:30 p.m.	flyFloor, DBP Building, Makati City		

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as epecified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) Interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the Supply, Delivery and Installation of the aforesaid Office Equipment for at least three (3) years. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Maketi City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those prospective bidders who bought the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference scheduled on April 18, 2006.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610

(PDI--April 2 & 9, 2006)

Bids and Awards Committee

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#### supervisory / managerial capacity Marketing / Advertising / Events

DEPARTMENT HEAD

College graduate Not over 40 years old At least 5 years experience in developing and implementing marketing plans, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial

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## TRAINING DEPARTMENT HEAD

## College graduate Not over 40 years old Al least 5 years experience in the administration of training program, with 3 years in a supervisory / manageria, capality

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT HEAD

## College graduata Not over 40 years old At least 5 years of combined programming, system analysis, natworking exposure, with 3 years in a supervisory /

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Tal. No. 487-53-56 E-mail: recruitment-te@loogroup.com

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#### E-mail recruitment-lo@fccgroup.com ISUPERVISORY/TECHNICAL POSITIONS) IPOR REGIONAL MAHAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEAD PORTYONS) APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO BE ASSIGNED IN BICOL

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Republic of the Philippines Department of Health Center for Health Development - Metro Menila OR, JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Tala, Caloncen City Telefax, 962-82-09 / Tel. 962-98-84

March 22 2006 INVITATION TO APPLY FOR

ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Dr. Jose N. Rodinguez Memorial Hospital Invites responsible and duty accredited suppliers from DOH/CHO-NCS to apply for eligibary and to bid for the supply of the following items

FOODSTUFFS ANGLE BAR MS PLATES INFECTIOUS CONTROL SUPPLIES SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

April 6, 2008 Issuance of Bid Documents (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) tem A-C April 5, 2008 Pre-Bid Conference

(1:00 p.m.) April 7-17, 2006 Checking of Eligibility (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Submission and Opening of Bids

(TEMS A. April 19, 2006 ,1:00 a.m.) B. April 19, 2006 (10:00 a.m. April 18, 2006 (10:00 a.m.) Ċ. April 19, 2008 (11:00 a.m.) Prospective bidders may secure-bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Mamorial Hospital,

upon payment of a non-refundable lee of Five Hundred Peros (P500.00). All activities shall be held at the Training room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tale, Caloccan City, unless

Each bet must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a carillied check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further mostines, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretarial or call Talephone No. 952-9884 or 962-9885 Dr JINRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to extrust the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any rability to the effected bidders or any obligation to inform the allected bidders. of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, NO. MHA Cheef of Sanstanuan III

(PDI - Abresh 25 & April 2, 2008)

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## PROCUREMENT NOTICE:

Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Desktop Computers and Printers, and Provision of Training and Technical Support Services to National High Schools throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Windanso and other Conflict-Affected Acaes in Mindanao under the USAID-financed Growth with Equity in Mindanan Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mardenac (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified companies/contractors/suppliers to submit proposals, consisting of separate technical and price proposals for the sublect activity. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 15 - Contracting by Negotiation and the contract will be awarded to the offeror who best demonstrates its ability to provide the required products/services and supply the regulard product at the most reasonable price. Essentially, the contracted work shall consist of providing up to 1,071 computers and peripheral equipment to approximately 150 national high schools throughout the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflictaffected areas in Mindanao (CAAM), based on a procurement/delivery schedule beginning on or about May through October 2006, with the contractor providing follow on operations and maintenance training for recipients, as well as establishing a service and maintenance system. Following is the technical description of the product(s) which are to be supplied by the contractor U.S. brand Desktop Computers with the following specifications and add-ons: intel Celeron 2.66 LGA 775 or its U.S. commerclai squivalent, intel D915GAV, or its U.S. commercial equivalent, 255 MB DRR Memory, 40 GB 7200 RPM HDD, 15" colored monitor, 52x max CD-ROM, Tower Casing w/ 300 watts power supply, Ergonomic loy/toard, Multimedia Speakers, Optical Mouse (USB). Built-in sound and video cards, Floppy disk drive, Network adapter LAN Cord, AVR. Mouse pad, Glass filter screen, and CPU protective plastic cover; J.S.-brand Deskuet printers with the following specifications: All-in-one desk jet printer (color printing, color copying and scarring) with free 1" set of black and colored ink cartridges, and nk cartridge(s) replacement must be readily available as well as relatively reasonable priced. Only offerors which commit to supply the above-listed hardware will be considered qualified to participate in this solicitation process. Offerors must provide the following information which will also form part of the basis for evaluating their respec-tive offers. Details of their ability to deliver the required products, inclusive of on-time delivery, transport and service arrangements, Description of delivery networks in the areas given and a list of their local affiliates/ distributors/resellers as well as institutional arrangements (if applicable), and a list of present contracts as well as that of successfully completed projects similar to the work requirements described herein Offerors must also demonstrate commitment to the project by providing counterpart staff consisting of a senior counterpart program manager and a training coordinator/ specialist with demonstrated experience in working in the ARMA1 and CAAM. Further details are listed in the solicitation document.

A pre-proposal submission conference is scheduled at 10:00 AAA of Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at the GEM Program Management Office in Davad City. Prospective offerors are expected to send representatives to this meeting, interested firms should submit their proposals, consisting of three copies of the teclifical proposal, and one copy of the cost proposal. The proposals must be received no later than 3:00 PM, Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the following address. The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts and Administration, GEM Program, 2/F1 Ladislawa Bldg, Ludislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City, 8000 Philippines. A meeting between LBGI and the offerers being considered for award may be held in at the GEM Program Management Office in Dawto City on Tuesday, May 2, 2005. Requests for copies of the solicitation document, any other questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the GEM Program Contracts Office via Fax: (OB2) 225-1454. The GEM Program is financed by USAID and Implemented in partnership with the Mindanio Economic Development Council



Republic of the Philippines Overseas Workers Welfare Administration OWWA Center Side. F.B. Havison St., Cor. 7" St., Peony City Tol. Nos. 891-7601 to 24

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APPLICATE CONTRACTOR ACTIONS AND ACTION ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE

## **Invitation to Apply for** Eligibility and to Bid

Re-bidding for the Provision of Medical Healthcare Services

for all OWWA Employees for a Period of One (1) Year

- The OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA), through the 2006 Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees, intends to apply the sum of the million four hundred fifty four thousand pesos (P5,454,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of medical healthcare services for OWWA employees. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bld opening.
- THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) now re-invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of medical healthcare services through a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) for 303 OWWA employees Including one (1) dependent for each for a period of one (1) year. The effective date of the contract is June 21, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section I) of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184). otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filiphio citizans/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bide from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section it of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bki (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to legal, technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRS) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
- interested Bidders may obtain further information from the OWWA BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given balow from 8:00 to 5:00pm.

Room 361, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building FB Harrison cor 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Pasay City.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the above-named address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of one thousand five hundred pesos only (Php1,500.00) starting April 06, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The mathod of payment will be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The OWWA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on April 20, 2006 10:00am at Blas F. Opie Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7 Street, Passy City.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before May 04, 2006 2:00 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, or certified check or cashler's check or bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit. Late bids shall not be
- Bid opening shall be on May 04, 2006 2:00 pm at the Bias F. Opia Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below
- The OWWA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bld, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award. without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

Contract Person Dir Ma. Lourdes V Reyes OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison aby 7 Address

Street, Pasay City 834-0170 Telephone No.

833-1010 Facsimile No.

owwabac@yahoo.com Email Address

> (Sgd.) DIR. ALBERTO O. VALENCIANO **BAC Chairman**

(PDI-April 2 & 9, 2005)





## Request for Submission of **Grant Applications**

The Private Sector Mobilization (PRISM) for Family Planning Project is seeking applications for a grant award intended for

> Marketing A Low-Priced Contraceptive Brands in the Philippines RFA 2006-02-03

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for international Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International incorporated.

Grant funding of up to 12.5 million pesos will be provided to one successful grant application in accordance with standard USAID

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and legally registered pharmaceutical companies engaged in the marketing, manufacture or distribution of pharmaceutical products with the infrastructure to achieve national distribution of the contraceptive product/s within six weeks of product launch. Government institutions are not eligible to bid. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on Tuesday. April 4, 2006. Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from grants @ orism.orc.oh. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ PRISMGrants/. The closing date for the aubrnission of application is 5:00pm, May 15, 2006.

Grant Applicants' Conference will be held at the PRISM office on April 17, 2006 at 2pm. PRISM office is located at 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

For further details, please contact Ms. Ces Pangilinan, Senior Grants Manager at email address: grants@prism.org.ph.

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Beenlift every Sunday with the Philippine Dathy Inquire and plate it college at white, polymers of





## SERVICE STATION DEALERS

Required Deadline for Submussion of Application Capital 1. Mc Arthur Highway, Bgy. Kaingin, P4.0M 04/17/06

Bocaue, Bulacan 2. Daet, Camarines, Norte

Locations.

3. Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply

Must be able to put up required capitalization;

b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis, c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station

being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manilla c/o Ma. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.



Republica og Pilpintes

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT SERVICE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Americ Coversions (SupED-BAG) busine eligible teadors to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery to the DepED Diversor Offices of the following:

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Package No.J Quartity In	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)		Bld Sub- mission dezdliner Opening of Birls	Price al Sidding Documents (non- retundable)	Yearat	End war
1 Feeded Imped Nections 1 Powdered tell Interestation 1200.000	Physical and the Physic	April 21, 2006 10 000 A.M	May 4, 2005 10:00 A.M.	Php1,000.00	Bolimagin ng Kasurtingan Picar Sidg GepED Complex Magatro Avic, Pasig City	Hestin and Nearton Cartis

Buls received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected

The Tripting December's at Compact (Sec (CD) copy or hard copy shall be sveliable at the BAC Secrement, Procusional Server. Floors Stat. 95-Floor, Master Stag., CapED Complex, Misrator Avenue. Pacing Cey. starting April 4, 2005 upon payment of non-valued-bile has at class, indicated all-over.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the topionentity Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9: 64 otherwise languages is the Constrained Procedure for Return Act. Information 6 also available at <a href="https://procedure.com/physiological/com/ph may or all tibbs, to serve the bidding process, or decion

pages of bidding at any time paler to contract a

(Sgd.) Ally. CAMILO MIGLIEL M. MONTESA Application Secretary 20



Party transfer sells of an addition of the same

## MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

Besement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex Katiounen Road, Balars, Quezon City, Philippines 1100 Tel, Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 pp. 3600, 3615, 3616

## ITTATION FOR E-BIDDING

Maynifed Water Services, inc. is inviting all Interested Suppliers/ Manufacturers to participate in the e-Bid for the supply and delivery of various sizes of BUTTERFLY VALVE with Manual Actuator as listed below, as per MWSI Standard Specification

No.	Quantity	Description
1	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 400mm
2	1 pc	Butterfly Valve, 450mm
3	6 pcs.	Butterfly Valve 500mm
4	1 pc.	Butterfly Valve, 550mm
5	3 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 600mm
6	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 600mm
7	4 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 750mm
В	2 008.	Sutterfly Valve, 900mm
9	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 1050mm
10	1 pc.	Butterfly Valve, 1350mm

As part of pre-qualification, all prospective bidders are required to submit altop drawings and/or brochures showing the detailed description of butterfly valves including all dimensions and material designations together with other pre-qualification documents as enumerated in the Terms and Conditions, on or before April 17, 2006 at Purchasing Department

Interested suppliers may, beginning April 03, 2006 to April 07, 2006 obtain further information and secure a complete set of prequalification forms, technical specifications and terms and conditions upon payment of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000,00). The documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quazon City Telephone Nos. 435-3366/ 435-3374, Fax No. 928-2303.

The Electronic Bidding, scheduled on April 27, 2006 will be held at Bayan Trade's Office (24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libes, Quezon City).

(PCI - April 2, 2006)

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA Manager, Purchasing Dept.



#### INVITATION TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid on the following unserviceable properties on AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"

ONE (1) LOT UNSERVICEABLE OFFICE/STORE FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT

All Interested parties may secure the bidding guidelines and bid form for a non-refundable tee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from April 4 to 6, 2006 from the Administrative Department, Ground Floor, EHA Building, Flestamed, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Paranaque City

Submission of duly accomplished and sealed bid documents will be until April 12, 2006 at 5:00 PM. A pre-bidding conference and site inspection for all qualified bidders will be announced later

Bidders will be required to post a trid bond equivalent to ten percent (19%) of the total hid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashler's Check.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refused to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOEL R. PEREZ Chairman . Disposal Committee

(PDI-April 1 & 2, 2008)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This public is hereby informed that a Criminal Case for Fourteen (14) counts of QUALIFIED THEFT has been filed against MR. MARVIN B. DANUCO whose picture appears above, docketed as B-02303 to B-02316, and pending before the Regional Trial Court of Bogo, Cebu.

A warrant of arrest has been issued against Mr. Danuco. A reward shall be given to any person who will provide information leading to the successful arrest of Mr. Danuco.

Please contact Mr. Joel T. Go at 032-4184000 local 159, or write to Gillamac's Marketing Inc., 169 Sanciangko St., Cebu City.

Gillamac's Marketing Inc.



## Farmers' cooperative benefit from NFA's programs

THE CRUZIAN MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERA-TiVE, Inc. of Sta. Cruz, Magalang. Pampanga is now utilizing its solar dryer constructed in part through the National Food Authority's Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF) and Institutionalized Farmers as Distributors (IFAD) programs. Total project cost of the dryer is more than P780,000 where almost P274,000 of which came from said NFA programs. The Cruzian cooperative is Pampanga's most successful farmers' organization. Organized in June 1990 with help from the Department of Agriculture and Land Bank of the Philippines, its primary concern is to provide goods and services to its growing members, encoprage thrift and savings mobilization

for capital formation and to promote cooperation as a way of life to improve the social well-being of its members. With the introduction of NFA's Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) in Pampanga, farmers' organizations such as the Cruzian MPCI will get better palay buying price. The program was created to accommodate requests for a higher palay buying price with additional premium to be provided by the LGU in the area once a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NFA is signed. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

## NOTICE



ELMER P. NERI #34 Nickel St., Filinvest 9, Batasan Hills, Q.C.

Warrants of arrest were assued against ELMER P. NERI whose picture appears above, under the following cases.

1 Crim. Case 05-1236 (Makati RTC Br. 139) 2. Crim. Case 05- 1237 (Makati RTC Br 139) 3. Crim. Case 05-1593 (Makall RTC Br 184)

If you have any information on his whereabouts leading to his arrest, please call Tel Nos. B12-B242 or Mobile Nos. 0917-8730522 and 0917-8868160.

(PDI-April 2, 2006)



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A 9 2006

Motice is Herby Siren Dal Curlificate No. 1742 (or con(1) Proprietary store of the VAL LEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB JHC. tesced to AMANDO D. BUDIALACUR, was LOUD NO Contact Received New Cartillmain will be been part der bie bie 4 F

Holice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSEFINA V. JAYER was extrajudicially esseled among her heirs as pol Doc No. 402, Page No. 82, Book No AZ, Series of 2006 of the Notacial Registry of Atly. Cocar Citing of Ma PDI-April 2, 9 &15, 2006

estate of the late Lourdes C. Sames was extrajudicially sel-Best by her hears as per Doc. No. 181, Page No. 37, Sook No. 10. Series of 2005 before Atty. Banges M. Pone, Hotely Public for City of Pasig (PDI-Merch 9, 24, April 2, 2069)

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with

Effective 03-Feb-06 Dolores L. Lim Effective 27-Mar-06 Bryan D. Calapati

(For POEA purposes only)

#### [PDL: April 2, 2005)

Modes in Southy given that the extric of the late Estat A. Galdula covered by the TCT No. 7-34.218(8) was extrajodicially partitioned his beics with mainer I documen subscribed belong Afte Ratani B Material a Rotary Public in Sta Maria, Behasies under Doc. 497. Page 100, Book N. Series of 2005

(POI-March 25, April 2, 9, 2008) Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the rate Gerardo C. Aguller has been extrajudicially settled by his heir as per Doc#31, Page#7, Book#1 Series of

## IPCE March 26 & April 2 & 1, 2005

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before Hotary Public Alty.

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## HLURB ISSUES COMPLETION CERTIFICATE TO

Regulatory Board (HLURB) issued a certificate of completion for the first phase of development of The Lakeshore Estate located in Mexico. Pampanga. Regional Director Editha Barrameda



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signed the certificate upon recommendation of the Inspection Team who declared that phase I is completed in accordance with the approved development plan. Barrameda formatly awarded the certification to Archt. Nestor Mangio, president and CEO of Central Country Estate, Incorporated (CCEI) on March 14, 2006 at the HLURB regional office in the City of San Fernando.



" A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has made all others shine brighter."

## Gecilia B. Regino

Died in the grace of our Lord on March 29, 2006 at the age of 58.

She is survived by her husband Brig. Gen. Rafael R. Regino, the Surgeon General AFP; her children Genevieve" Ivy" Regino and Regine Danica Regino; Her parents Dr. Servando S. De Leon(†) and Leonor Guzman De Leon; her brothers and sisters Celestina, Johnny and Mars, Aurora, Rene, Guia and Peter, Lorenzo and Isabelita, Roberto (†) and Alicia, Teresita and Peter, Merced and Sixto, Alicia and Greg; together with her nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

> Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be at Santolan Catholic Cemetery on Tuesday, April 04, 2006 at 10:00 in the morning.

## LOURDES GARCIA SALVOSA

(July 29, 1944 - March 30, 2006)

Her loving husband Edgar; children Sheila & Nilo, Suzette & Ed, Sonny & Geegee, Jay & Julie, Kit & Mike, SJ & Fhei, Spyke and Chips; grandchildren Katti, Patti, Donito, Bianca, Nicole, Enzo, CJ, Bea, Krisha, Biboy, Julienne, Xid, Jae and Mickey; Parents, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends mourn her passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

## ENGR. RENATO CALUMA ALARCON

Died in the grace of our lard on March 31, 2006 at the age of 50.

His bereaved wife VIN; children Shleia, Melanie, Arvin & Regine; siblings Baby, Chito & Tess, relatives and friends request the pious renders to pray for the cternal

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapels, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2006 at the Our Lady of 🖫 Peace Memorial Park after the 2:00 PM Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Mothew 16:39

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

## 25th Episcopal Anniversary

Antipolo is celebrating the 25th Episcopal Anniversary of Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, D. D. at the Assumption College in Antipolo on April 3, 2006.

Bishop Gabby was born in Kalibo, Aklan on August 3, 1941 to the late Cong. Juan M. Reyes and Josefa Villaruz of Roxas City The youngest of four brothers, Bishop Gabby is the nephew of first Filipino Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes.

At a young age, he joined the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary, took his B. S. Philosophy and B. S. Theology in San Carlos Seminary in 1953 and studied for a year in the Gregorian University in

On Dec. 21, 1966, HE, Rufino Cardinal Santos ordained him to priesthood. His first assignment was as Secretary to the Cardinal. He later became an Asst, Parish Priest in San Juan then the Parish Priest in Tayuman, Tondo and San Miguel, Manila. Later he became the Asst Chapiain of Pope Pius XII Center In 1974 HE Jaime Cardinal 5th took Bishop Gabby as his Secretary. In 1979, he was assigned as parish priest of San Felipe Neri Parish in Mandaluyong antil his appointment as Auxilliary Bishop to HE, Cardinal Sin, and Titular Bishop of Selsea on January 20, 1981. From 1981 to 1983 he was the Parish Priest of Sta

same time the District Bishop for Passy, Paranaque, Las Pinas and Muntinlups. He was the Chairman of the Commission

on Migration and Tourism of the CBCP from 1983-1995, the first Spiritual Director of the National Service Committee Charismatic Renewal in the Philippines, and the Chairman of the Commission of the Lay Apostolate of the CBCP and a member of the Permanent Council of the Charlsmatic Bishops' Conference from 1996-2000.

From 1993 he was the Bishop of Kalibo until his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Antipolo on January 29,

Bishop Gabby is re-



**Bishop Reyes** 

garded as a man of deep humility, respect and simplicity He considers his flock as "living stones" and "living temple of the Spirit"

For the 40 years of serving the Church, carering to the spiritual needs of his flocks in strengthening their faith in God, Bishop Gabriel Reyes lives an authentic Christian life patterned to the life of Mary who gave herself in loving service to



BECOMING MVP. The Personnel Management Association of the Phils. (PMAP) Officers and AC Directorate gear up for this year's annual conference. With the theme, "Becoming MVP: Creating new HeRoes", the 43rd PMAP Annual Conference (Sept. 27-29, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas) is set to establish a ground-breaking convergence of brilliant minds and creative learning. Shown are: (seated from left) Ging Igual, PMAP Secretary Badette Cunanan, PMAP President Emerico de Guzman, PMAP Vice President and AC Chair Imee Centeno, PMAP Treasurer Debbie Centeno and 50th Anniversary Chairperson Grace Abelia-Zata. (Standing from left) Members of the AC Directorate; Boni Afortunado, B Austero, Nanie Geronimo and PMAP Executive Director Gerry Plana. Not in photo is Jesse Rebustillo who is the AC Publications Director in charge. For inquiries, you can call the PMAP Professional Staff at tel. 726-1581/88/32 or email pmap@pmap.org.ph.

## People, Events & Products

## Target HDL-C levels for Asians set

SIUM on the importance of raising HDL cholesterol in reducing cardiovascular disease risk during the recent joint annual convention of the Philippine Lipid Society and Philippine Society of Hyper-

professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, presented the recommendations of the Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, which suggests that the HDL-C target in Asian countries should be at least 40 mg/dL.

The panel likewise recommends that treatment of low HDL-C should also be considered within the context of global cardiovascular risk management. Low HDL-C has been established as an independent risk factor that can predict the occurrence of future coronary heart disease (CHD). Treatment of low HDL-C is therefore seen as an important step in

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The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel suggests that nicotinic acid, a medicine for the treatment of low HDL-C, "may prove to be a useful therapeutic intervention, as monotherapy or in Dr. Rody Sy, cardiologist and associate combination with a statin, in Asian patients with or at risk of CHD, including

those with type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome."

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, composed of specialists from 10 countries including the Philippines, was convened to give recommendations on the target level of HDL-C for the Asian population, as well as recommended treatment and management of low HDL-C. Sy, together with Dr. Annette Borromeo from the Philippine Heart Center and Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco from The Medical City, were the country's representatives to the panel.

## The art of tires

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age from the contact tire designs has won importers of Nitto patch, equating to an increased level of onroad grip and steering response. The low void-ratio and outside shoulder blocks are

conditions, "Natto's ag-

the hearts of those looking for that special tire for their ride Competitive pricing coupled with tremendous performance has designed to provide top level handling and kept Nitto at the forefront of the tuner's cornering response market. This is innovaduring normal to high tive tire technology at performance driving its best," says Sammy

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SHOWN, from left, are Consuelo Javier, product manager, Merck inc, Dr. Eilzabeth Paz-Pacheco, Dr. Roy Cuison, Dr. Rody Sy, and Dr. Annette Borromeo.

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officer Gerardo C, Abiaza Jr, Telus International president Eng Boon Lao and Ambargris Solutions Philippines founder and chief executive officer javier infante.

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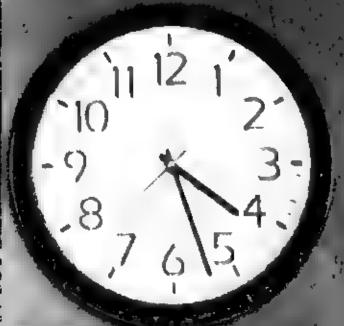
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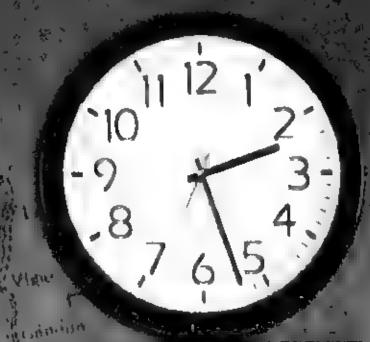
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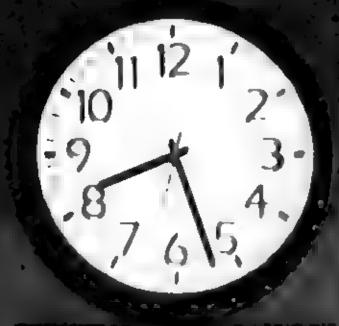
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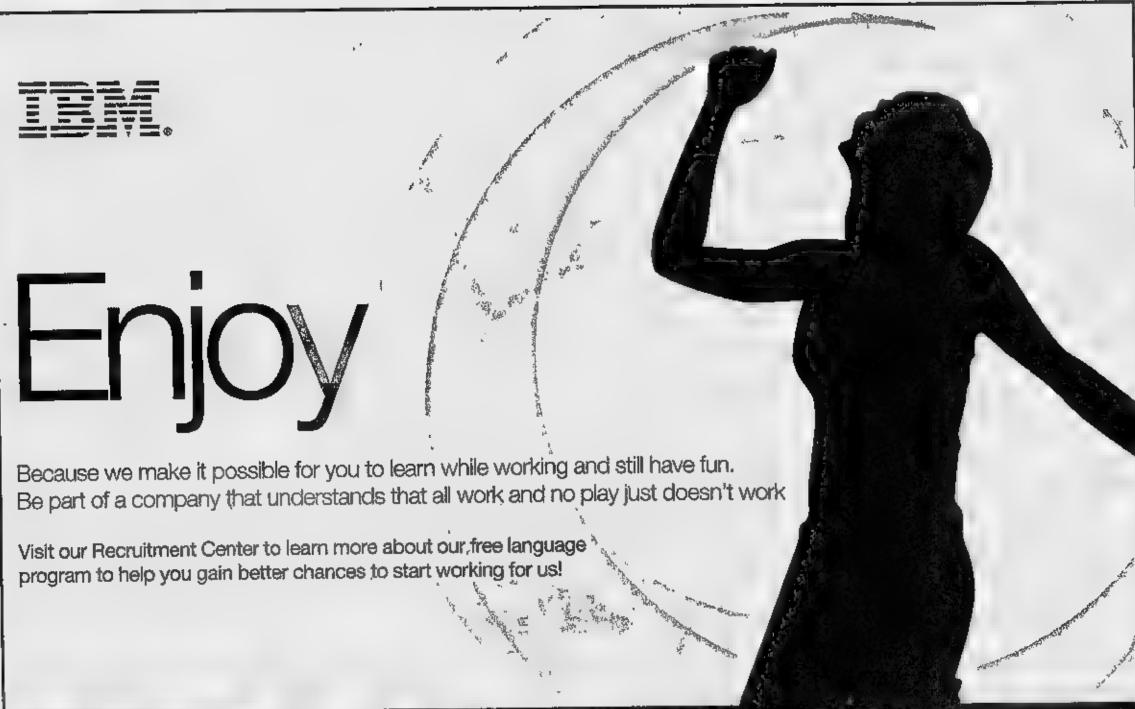
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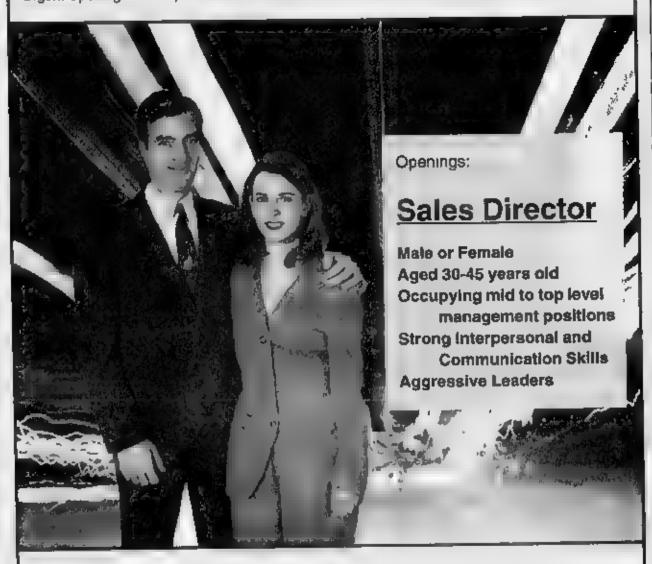
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EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES





The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project

## Senior Grants Manager

## Background:

Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM FP) aims to human private sector motivations and capabilities to increase the share of total need for family planning that is met by the private sector as well as to reduce names need for family planning amongst women of reproductive age who have the capacity to pay. Chemonies is the lead organization of a consortium including EngenderHealth, The Manoff Group, EMI Systems, Philippines Business for Social Progress, Institute for Reproductive Health Philippines, Philippines NGO Council on Population Health & Welfare and several organizations in the

The Fund Specialist will be responsible for taking the lead role in creating and initialing the subcontracts/ grants program and coordinating all PRISM in FP subcontract/grant-related work.

The following are the Principal Duties and Responsibilities but not limited to:

- Create and oversee overall policies, practices and procedures relating to grants management,
- Create specific procedures relating to grant solicitation and selection, grant awards, grant moditoring and evaluation and grant close-outs.
- Ensure the proper preparation and execution of grant documents and grant disbursements in time with USAID procedures and practices.
- Oversee the first few grant cycles to easure adherence to established USAID and project policies.
- Ensure proper planning and preparation of synopses, agondas, minutes, memos Build results and results frameworks into the grants program.
- Analyze, assess, and assist with budgetary and financial aspects of grant proposals, recipient financial
- management espacities and needs and disbursement of funds/grants. Submit proposals to USAID for approval before awarding grants. Ensure that the grant recipient have good appreciation of the terms and conditions of the fund/
- grant as well as the closses which provide guidelines on amendments, suspension, termination, disputes and other standard provisions in the administration and management of the grants.
- Ensure effective linison between project staff and grant receptents, ensure that recipients are provided with suitable technical advice and assistance.
- Propage monitoring and evaluation report on a quarterly basis of the outstanding grants to include the problems encountered in the implementation of the grants and the corresponding resolutions.
- Work closely with the Senior Technical Directors, Field Operations Directors and Senior Finance and Administration Munager, USAID, and other team members on all motters relating to grants. All other duties that will be assigned by the Project Support Unit Director and the Chief of Party or

Reportings

The Sr. Grants Manager will report directly to the Director of Project Support and Administrative Unit or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

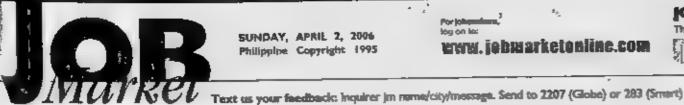
## Job Qualifications

- This position will require 10+ years of experience and good understanding of donor organizations' procedural requirements in great administration and menagement, preferably USAID funded
- Good project management and administrative skills, preferably with respect to managing grant
- Good analytical ability and knowledge of lisalth organizations to the Philippines.

of April 2006. Please indicate the subject of your small as "Position Code: SGM"

- An up-to-date understanding and knowledge of political and social conditions in the Philippines.
- Knowledge of approaches suitable for assessing recipioni organizations' grant-worthiness, as well as their financial, administrative and program planning capacities.
- Patience, good hunger, and an ability to get along well with people in a tenna, sometimes in demanding and/or busy circumstances. Field experience with NGOs, preferably health organizations, preferably in the Philippines, and

experience monitoring and evaluating field projects Interested applicants should e-mail their application latter and CV at jobs@prism.oxg.ph on or before 21st



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- Must be energetic, outgoing
- and creative Must be a good organizer and
- positive team member Must possess good

interpersona: skilis

Applicants must submit their application letter with recent 2x2 picture, resumé, TOR, certificate of employment or recommendation letter, copy of any teaching certificate to:

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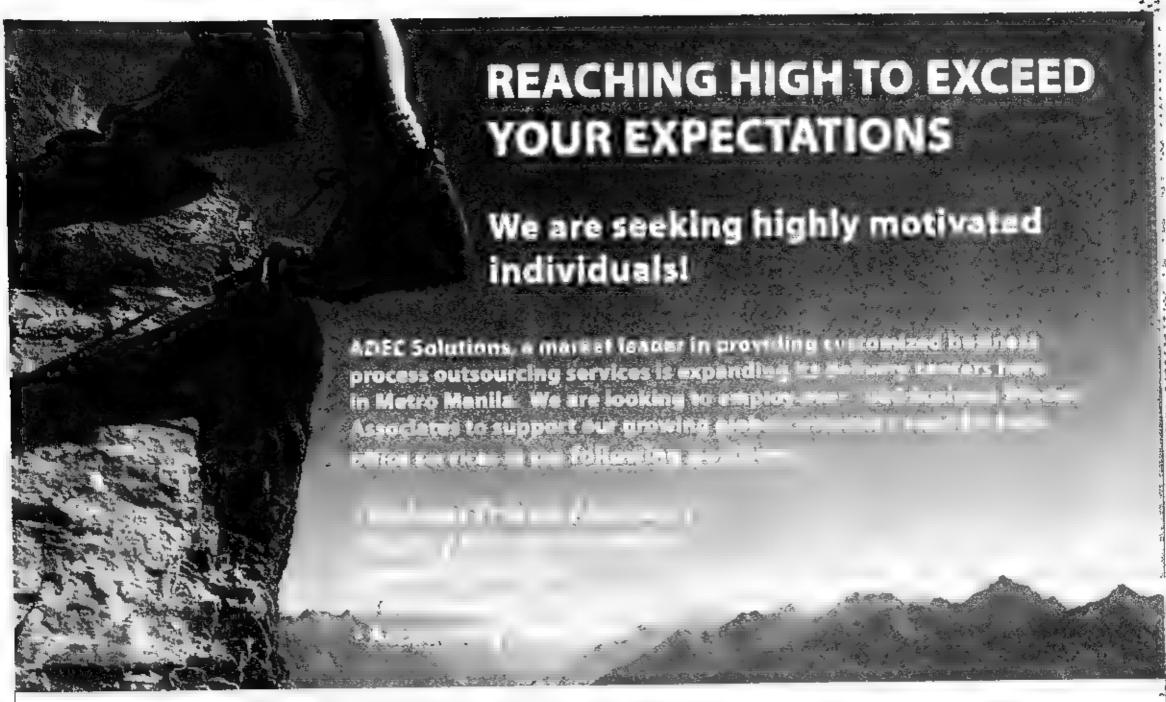
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- Computer literate with good typing speed and accuracy
- High analytical ability
- Flexible and can work with minimal supervision
- Willing to work in shifting schedule or permanent night shift
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- Two (2) passport size photos
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The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project Scope of Work

## Grants Officer

## Hackground

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), is a five-year project funded by USAID which seeks or motivate and bento the capacity of the private sector to market, self-and distribute competitive family planning products and services. PRISM intends to accomplish its performance objectives by establishing paramedalips with business associations, private sector methcal practitioners and midwives, and phormaceutical companies.

The implementation of PRISM is being led by a consortium led by Chemonies International Incorporated. Under its contract. Chemomes will provide technical assistance aceded to meet the performance objectives of PRISM and facilitate the release and management of grants and subconstants.

Because of the anticipated volume of contracts in be managed order the project, Chemonics is engaging the services of a Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is expected to participate to specific steps in the grant-testung process, survely: pre-solicitation, redictioner, review and selection, pre-award, award and post-award stages.

Pre Substitution Assist in applitting and maintaining the list of associations, hosaness organizations and other non-government

- organizations which are potential recipient's of grant solicitations; Assist in organizing and in the actual conduct of pre-instead pre-installants, proposal write shape, etc., Assistance
- includes documenting the proceedings and/or writing the mounts;

  3. Assist in the proparation of acquests for applications (RFAs) and/or Annual Program Statements (APS).
- Assest in the assurance of RFAs e.g. preparation of newspaper sals, preparation of letters to pastners introducing
- the societation, etc., Assist in following up submission of applications; and, Maretoin files of all subcitations and applications received (PRISM grant files).

- Check for the completeness of submitted proposals and applications, Assist in organizing meetings of Selection Committee which will evaluate applications for great awards, and, Prepares prinates of selection committee meetings.
- 1. Preplue actification letters for grout recipients.

## Implementation Stage

- Assist in the preparation of the graph agreements.
- Meanuan all grant files: Assess in minimum compliance of grantees to their contract terms and in following up subruksion of required
- Review the completeness and accuracy of documents submitted to facilitate payment orders or requests; Update and murriam grants database.
- Classon [, Pollow up preparation and submission of terminal reports or deliverables; Prepare grant completion certificates.

The Grants Officer will report directly to Grants Manager

- Qualifications:
- Maximum of 3 years experience in administering grants or subcontracts under USAED funding Enoughedge of USA(D procurement procedures
- Very skuled is various computer applications
- Good command in written and spoken English

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- Portfolio Monitoring and Reporting
  - monator portfolio performance through World Bank information databases, project team reports, & follow up with sector teams:
  - prepare Monthly Montoring Reports, methoding inputs from other teams as required: provide timely portfolio information, meluling inputs to midyear reviews and other major reports as required.
  - prepare briefs, updates and presentations related to the ongoing portfolio for management or external reporting as needed;
  - conduct analyses and independent reviews of specialized topics as requested. Portfelio Management

## review project team reports for key status information;

- prepare & manage the process of twice-yearly portfolio reviews, including assembling relevant project assessments, highlighting. issues for discussion with task teams and unplementing agencies, arranging meetings with implementing and oversight agencies, and drafting the final portfolio review report,
- assess achievement of Country Assistance Strategy result targets for the loan portfolio based on portfolio review information.
- metatain and implement quidity assurance aroungements for all loan portfolio letters and other documents requiring Country
- as required, review and provide comments on key project documents during preparation, implementation and completion; keep informed on Bank operational policies & provide support to task teams on operational instruments, policies & procedures;
- organize knowledge sharing activities on operational quality issues and best practices;
- undertake and support untiatives to scale up the team's simplification, quality and results agends.

- maintain close working relationships with Bank task teams both in the Mardia office and in headquarters, maintain close working relationships and arrange regular meetings with key counterparts in the government oversight and amplementing agencies; coordinate Bank support of external client access to the Circut Connection Web Portar

The captidate would also contribute substantively to activities which are joint responsibilities of the portfolio team and others, such as throughing for results, harmonization, partnerships, simplification, and support for the Country Assistance Strategy, Philippines
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## Selection Criteria:

- Advanced degree in relevant discipline such as economics, finance, accounting or business administration w/ strong quantitative skills;
- Minimum of seven (7) years professional experience including a minimum of three (3) years in development work;
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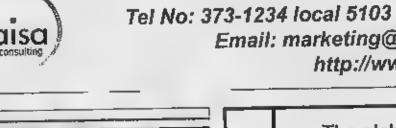
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2 females with Travel Agancy experience in Must be computer literate and fluent in English

CONSULT NO CORPORATION URGENTLY NEEDED

## SALES & MARKETING OFFICERS (3)

Our client is one of the leading floral design company in the country. They offer above average compensation package, excellent training, career advancement, stability, and growth. They are seeking suitably qualified and career-minded individuals that are:

- Male/Femele, single 21-30 years old, College graduate
- With 2 years experience in Sales and Account Management. Preferably graduate of Interior Design Mass Communication, Fine Arts,
- Architecture or any course related to Aris. Aniculate with pleasing personally and has managerial skills.
- Must be willing to work long hours. Fresh graduates from UP, La Salle, Atenen, UST and other exclusive echools are also welcome to apply.

Those earning less than 20,000 a month need not apply.

Applicants are required to apply in person at Suite 1602 CTTYLAND 10, TOWER 1, H.V. De La Costa St., Makett City on April 3, 4 & 5 (Mon., Tue. & Thur.) from 1-5 pm only and bring resums with picture, copy of transcript and certificates. Por inquiry, call 751-6730.

visit us at: www.jobmarketonline.com

## Graduates, Looking for a Great Career? Look West West offers: Agent Opportunities: Get connected to a global Guaranteed base wage increases organization with a career at every six months for agent positions! Technical Support Representatives West Contact Services, Inc. · Flexible work schedules We are a subsidiary of US Compet tive pay Customer Service Representatives pased West Corporation with Career path opportunities several contact centers West Contact Services, Inc. Located near public transportation ocated throughout North Teleservices Representatives 28/F Exportbank Plaza Buddy System Philosophy Grab a friend/roommate America, Europe and Asia Don Chino Roces cor Sen. and apply together so you can work together G# Puyat, Makati Casual, fun working environment

## WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of Computer Science or IT Mate not more than 28 years old Fresh graduates are welcome to apply Knowledgeable in the following,
  - Visua, Basic 6.0 2. MySQL MS Access, SQL
  - Linux (whatever distribution)
  - Hardware (trouble shooting)

## ASSISTANT MECHANIC

- Vocational Course with Hydrautic System background With at least 2 yrs. Experience
- With experience in automotive electrical wiring Experience in heavy equipment is an advantage
- Willing to be trained

## CLAIMS OFFICER

Male, 24-30 yrs old Experience in cargo operations.

With excellent one and written communication skills

Must have knowledge in investigation process Can deal with different levals of people

## CHIEF ENGINEERS

- RECAUREMENTS. Seaman's book
- PAC License - BSC WIT PSSR

COC or QDC Cert. NBI Clearance

 1 x 1 ID Pictures Cert of Service from previous employers

All qualified applicants may apply personally with comprehensive Resume/Bio-data and credentials at:



## PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

SOLID SHIPPING LINES CORPORATION

Pier 8, North Harbor, Tondo, Manifa TEL# 245 - 0585 To 87



Development Corporation

The developer of Camp John Hay, Baguio City's premier forest-tourism resort, announces the following:

## JOB OPENING

## PR and MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

Minimum Qualifications: Male/Female, Single, Graduate of Communication, Journalism, or related course, at least 2 years experience in any related field, Proficient in both English and Tagalog (both Verbai and Written), Proficient in copywriting, publication, editing and photo composition, Proficient in MS Windows application, and detall-oriented.

For interested applicants, submit the following requirements with a Letter of Application to the Human Resource Department, Camp John Hay Development Corp., 5/F Renaissance Tower, Meraico Avenue, Pasig City not later than 07 April 2005: Comprehensive Resumé with at least one contact number, 2x2 ID Picture, SSS Number, Tax Identification Number and Certificate/s of Employment, Look for Regina Q. Cuizon or e-mail your requirements to

# Apply from home today! westemployment.com De La Salle University

#### Manıla Graphics Designer

The Center for Educational Multimedia of De La Salle University-Manila is conducting a search for a Graphics Designer to handle the design requirements for its multimedia projects and computerbased training programs.

The applicant should have adequate industry design experience in interactive multimedia, Internet-based programs and applications, and should have a Fine Arts background. Applicant should possess strong background on the following software/ design tools; Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premier, Freehand, Illustrator, Corel Draw, 3-D Studio Max, Flash, and Dreamweaver The applicant must be creative, dynamic, and hard-working. The applicant will also conduct training to adult learners on the use of Adobe Photoshop and other graphics design-related software. Salary is competitive and based on one's

Interested applicants should submit an application letter, resumé, transcript of records, 2 recommendation letters, and 2 identical 2" x 2" colored pictures not later than April 07, 2086. Applicants may send the required documents via email at eulinj@dlsu.edu.ph or via mail and address it to:

Dr. Miguel Q. Rapatan

Center for Educational Multimedia

2401 Taft Ave., Manila. Interested parties may call 524-4611 loc. 563 to verify receipt of application.

Our company is an international power generation firm. It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts.

## If the world. We offer compensation package that is compatitive in the energy Currently, we are looking for a qualified candidate to assume the following p **Accounting Supervisor**

Phone: 857-7400

Fax: 857-7431/32

Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

(NCR-Pasig City)

Minimum Qualifications: Education: Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy

- Responsibilities:
- 4 Financial (US GAAP) and international Accounting Standards) and Statutory Preparation/Review of Management Reports and other reportorial requirements of the BOI. SEC, project landers and other stakeholders
- Preparation/Review of accounts analyses including implementation of new accounting standards
- Cash Managament. Coordination with Head Office and project owners as needed
- Other dubes that may be assigned

Work experience:

Moneyster of 3-4 years post qualification expenience from uns of 2-3 years work experience in tdg accounting times an advantage

Industry-related experience preferred

incustry-related expensive preferred Solid background in taxation, financial expounding systems and controls u.S. GAAP reporting experience an advantage Excellent oral and written communication shifts Frenchia and responsive to multiple job designed Excellent team player and strong misrpersonal skills with all levels of organization Good consentrational skills.

Good organizational skills Profesent in Microsoft software; isomledge of JD Edwards is a strong plus

The successful candidate needs to be a hardworking, dependable, self-motivated; analytical and detail-oriented individual with good interpersonal skills. An excellent team

Successful campidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars

Pluase send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and oducational attainment to:

The HR Department Email address. rgorsyeb@intergen.com



We are en ISO Certified Organization and one of the major players in the merkating of chemical raw materials for more than 20 years. If you can speak with candor, take risks and keep agreements, we knote you to be part of our robust organization. We have an immediate opening for the following positions.

## **ACCOUNTING MANAGER**

- Female, 26-35 years old, CPA, minimum 3 years experience With hands-on experience in any of the following: Platinum, ACCPAC, PeachTree and SAP RS
- Can analyze and interpret accounting records and prepare financial reports

## **PURCHASING MANAGER**

- Famale 28-35 years old, tour-year course graduate
- Hiramum of 5 yours working experience
   Preferably knowledgeable in the importation of raw materials

- SALES SUPERVISORS Mate/Formele, 26-35 years old graduates of any Engig. course, FoodTech, Chemistry or equivelent with minimum of 3 years professionals
- experience in coporate selling Background in marketing of cheetical rew paterials for food/personal care/ home care/scaps and detargents is an odventage.
  This is a serior level position but will not be tasked to handle people.

## FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

Majo/Forsele, 26-35 years old Microsom of 5 years working experience in RED or Production

Please malife-maß or fex your application letter and comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID photo attention to HR Manager

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Pim. 436 49: Ploor Calvo Billig Escoba St. Binondo Mantin 1006 (in front of City College of Mantie) E-mail: http://pebowo.com.ph Yal. No. 2414548 = Paix No. 2414746



We are engaged in software development and cater to a growing group of Filipino and foreign companies, we now require JUNIOR PROGRAMMER WHO ARE:

- Male, below 28 years of age
- Graduate in BS Math, BS Computer Science or related
- Working knowledge in Microsoft Access and/of Visual Basic is a major requirement Fluent in English
- Keen to learn more and grow in a "high tech" company

Our Benefit Package includes.

- Commissions from sales
- Overseas travel to customers

Interested applicants may send their resumé with picture together with their application letter, in MS Word, PDF or Text format to:

spectral@spectralasia.com E-mail

521-6779 Kindly indicate APPLICANT as subject

13





CBI (PHILIPPINES) (NC. is a multinational company engaged in specialty engineering, procurement and construction projects. We currently have vacancies for the following positions:

#### NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR - CBIEA

Qualified applicants will provide assistance in problem resolution ie, user guidance and first level support. Act as key contact for on-site and remote users for PC/Server. production problems and inquiries.

- BS or BA degree in Computer Science, Business Administration or equivalent computer related course Minimum 1-2 years work experience in Microsoft Windows Environment and customer service
- Knowledgeable in all enterprise hardware and software
- Preferably Microsoff Certified Systems Engineer or equivalent

#### <u>ENGINEERS - ACBI</u>

- Male, BS Mechanical/ Civil Engineer or equivolent. preferably licensed
- Must have (2) years experience and strong exposure to project site environment. Specifically in oil/gas Industries involving industrial, piping, metallurgy and mechanical construction.
- Computer literate with good command of English communication
- Willing to travel in different jobsites

#### General Qualifications for the (3) positions below:

- Minimum five (5) years industrial experience using both theoretical and practical application. Credentials must be in accordance to his flaid of expertise
- Strong exposure to project site environment Physically healthy and able to work on heights.
- Willing to travel in different jobsites

## ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (1) - ACBI

- Prefer PLC (Programmable Logic Control) and defective PCB (Printed Circuit Board) trouble shooting and repair experience.
- Competent knowledge in motor controls, relays, filmers and industrial electrical works

## INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN (1) - ACBI

- . Ability to trouble shoot and repair machineries and automotive electrical aircultry such as leverhead powered hoist crane, hydraulic presses, rolling and bending machines, fordiffs, mobile cranes, tractors and generators.
  - Prefer hands-on experience in installation. maintenance and repair of electrica, wiring, and equipment (motor control, wiring and pane, termination, relays, solenoids, timets, frequency converters, etc.)

## **HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC (1) - ACBI**

- Ability to trouble shoot, repair and overhaul automotive engines, diesei drive compressor generators and hydraulic system
- Prefer hands-on experience in trouble shooting and repair of Industrial machineries such as: powered hoist crane, hydraulic presses, rolling and bending machines.

interested parties can hand carry or send their curriculum vitae, one piece 2x2 photo, school credentials and employment certificates to 沙特斯斯特

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT** CBI (PHILIPPINES) INC. 20th Floor Equitable Bank Tower 8751 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, 1226 Makas City Tel No. (02) 886 0211

or send email to ritavier@CBl.com ne position applied)



Republic of the Philippices
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT Bide & Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a lean from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRO) sewards the cost of the Kapit-Bierg Labon se Kahirapan-Comprahensive and bringrated belivery of Social Services Project (KALAH::CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the processes of the loan to payment of protessocial services under this Contract. The Department of Social Wallace and Development which is the legs implementing againty for Kapit-Barig Labon as Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KAEAHI-CIDSS) of the government in Politing poverty non-trivials included Proportional Proportion (KAEAHI-CIDSS) of the government in Politing poverty non-trivials included Proportional Proportion (KAEAHI-CIDSS) of the government in Politing poverty non-trivials.

- The Knowledge Overlayment and information Specialist shall;

  III Develop a haceledge menagement immersels of the MALAHI-CIDES Project including, but sold
  - Consult with key players of the Project televially and externally learning turnwisedge and information needs of the key players, especially statishbotises at the passonal texal.
  - Scan the social environment to trends and best practices in knowledge management in divelopment projects.

    Develop the terowledge development have work
  - Deversill an operational plan to mersice the participed and information generated by the SCALAHI-CIBSS Project including, but not invoked to.

  - Review the Intrawork via 4-ris studies work structure in the KALAHS CRUSS Project.
    Recommend strategic adjustments in the operation to take total economic backterisment appoint.

  - navelupment square.

    There up operations glass lists will believ markage the Project's generation and effective use
    of knowledge. The plan should stee address knowledge and information needs of key
  - 03. Implement the knowledge mentagement operational plan locations, but not limited for
- cognitive uncommanded with a product products. Develop in a configuration collection of the products of the configuration with the Social Marketing Officer, information collections. Strategically stored manufacture of the product of the collection of the collectio
  - Proceduraly contribute to the overall-development of KALAHI-CIDSS Project through participation in meetings, consettations, remains, and other educates of the Project and the Department.

    Partner other liebts as assigned by the Markooal Project manager.
- adividuals that have the following qualifications may aubmit Expression of Interest: Master's degree or equoyalent in international relations, social science, public administration, or
- rentice into:
  Fernal intining or practical experience in the use of information technology.
  Alternative of three points progressively responsible into wedge management experience.
  Excellent interpersums statis, strong eachs measures and exemption state, excellent English lesquage.
- Communication and advocacy experience as well as altern presentation stalls.

  Renewadgeable about to sign-establed development projects. At least two years experience in
- development projects.

  Proactes and injuryed approach to problem solving and prolegational meponelodities.

  Demonstrated ability to work independency as well as cooperatively in an organization.

  Highly organizati, ediculyst, rehable, Olectebs, supportive, and flauble to a high stress, midfillant and cooperatively.
- Professor with personal competent and appropriate software including, but not finited to Afferent Outside, Word, Excel PowerPoint, Access and Project.

Interested Appeteste zern submit is written Expression of Interest, Application, Aller and Comprehensive Research to the Brits & Awards Committee Secretarial at 2xd floor, OSY10. Batteria Pembunus Compiles Contendion Pells, Coezon City with beeplace number 351-71-15 or at p-mad address becard devid gov.ph and dawnbacead Typhon.com until April 7, 2006 at 5-00-754.

(SSD) FLORITA R. VILLAR Assetset Secretary and Cressperson, BAC

## SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

## For a Christian School

- 1. Fluency in oral & written communication in CHINESE, ENGLISH and FILIPINO
- 2. Master's degree in Education or related course
- 3. At least 5 years of relevant experience. Attractive Salary and other Benefits

Please send Resumé to:

The Administrator P.O. Box 3423 MCC, Makatı



If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder



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## Merchandise Manager

The ideal candidate will develop and plan merchandise assortments; implement and monitor visual merchandising standards; develop and manage suppliers; manage monthly OTS (Open-To-Buy), safes and gross margin; develop advertising and safes promotional plans

- male or famale, not over 35 years old
- Boohelor's Degree in telated field 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- experience in planning, forecasting and allocation
- computer literate

## Merchandise Rannina & Control Analyst / Merchandising Coordinator

The successful condidate will provide support to merchandise management in sales: inventory analysis, formulation of policies and control procedures related to merchandising, warehousing and ensure compliance to set policies and procedures.

- temale, not over 30 years old
- graduate of BS Industrial Engineering or Economics
- with all least 1-2 years of experience in sales inventory analysis and development of merchandising or warehouse procedures

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Piday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at

SM Corporate Office Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard SM Central Business Park Bay City, Pasay City

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## makro

We are a leading multinational company known for its unique position in wholesale trade and distribution. We are inviting top notch candidates in our search for:

## **ACCOUNTANTS**

The position requires at least 2 years experience in General Accounting, Cost Analysis and Payables. Function includes analyses finances, maintains financial statements/records of the company, monitors data flow and ensures compliance to required standards, ensures implementation of corporate policies and assist in the development of necessary procedures. Works with less supervision. Graduate of Accounting.

We are offering very competitive compensation package and opportunities for career growth.

Please e-mail your comprehensive resumé no later than April 12, 2006 to:

hrmgr@makro.com.ph or send to HR Department, PILIPINAS MAKRO, INC. Km 21 East Service Road, SSHW Sucat, Muntiplapa City



## PRODUCT SALES SPECIALISTS & RECEPTIONIST

LIBERTYSTILE IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

## PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

- Male or Female, between 24-34 years old
- Degree holder, preferably in Marketing Management, Business
- Management, Interior Design and Architecture Computer Literate, Excellent Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- With pleasing personality, smart, aggressive, self-motivated and
- Preferably with experience in Sales construction, Interior Design and related product lines

## RECEPTIONIST

- Female, between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any business related course from reputable universities With at least 1 year work experience in a position of similar capacity
- Capable of multi-tasking, organized and efficient
- Computer literate, with excellent oral and written English communication skills

Interested Applicants may send their resumé along with 2x2 picture by post or e-mail to-

223 Nicanor Garcia St., Sel-Air Village II, Makati City 1227 libertystile@skyinet.net

Note: Personal Applications will not be entertained.

#### IMMEDIATE HIRING ILCOUNTING OFFICERS

For an expanding Group of Companion at teast one-year relevant experience Female, not more than 30 years old, must be a graduate of BS Accountancy or BSC major in Accounting

Moli resumés lo hr\_campaigne@ychoo.com.ph Resumb of new graduates are also accopied

## WANTED

**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS** (8)nlogy, Physics, T.H.E., English & Math) for S.Y 2006-2007

Apply w/ TR and Resumé at: FRANCISCO SCHOOL 045 Quinno Highway, Baesa, Q.C. Tel. No. 362-85-73 / 455-49-88

We are currently looking for talented, saif- motivated & goat oriented professionals to III in the following

- positions

  MARKETING MANAGER
  Bachelor's Cogsee in Marketing or Business Management; Market's Degree is an advantage
  2 to 3 years experience as Marketing Manager
  Above average contribution of the "Knowledge in Basic Computer Applications MS Office With Information Technology (IT) Background With Information Technology (IT) Background With Information Technology (IT) Background With shoring safes and organizational sides
  Project Management and Planning Experience
  Can do product and survice presentations

  Witing to de field work
- ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL / STAFF
- ACCIOSI FIND PERSONNEL 2 7077

   Bachelor's Degree in Accounting

   Asorage communication skill

  2 years experience as Accounting Personnel/ Statil

  Knowledge in Besic Computer Applications IdS Office

   Mass have excelled quantitative and analytical skill

  Knowledge in the preparation of Financial Statement

   Can work with minimum supervision
  - PROJECT COORDINATOR Bachelore Degree in any computer-selvice course 1 year experience in project management Above average continuation stall
- With strong organizational skill Can work with minimum supervision Witing to do field work REMIAN RESOURCE OFFICER

  Bechelor's Degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology or Behavioral Science
  1 to 2 years experience as Human Resource Officer.

  Has experience in deling rechylical neuralment in an IT company.

  Purferably with wide rechallment network.

  Resourceful and can work under presource.

  Has a pleasing personality and excellent oral and written communication skrip. MINIAN RESOURCE OFFICER
- SYSTEM ANALYST
- sincing be acopy at least time to just the stocking programming languages. C.t. single-pe, C++, C#, Assembly Language, Cobol, Visited Based.

  Visual FoxPro, ASP and VB not PRP ETC.

   Knowledge in Oate Base Design. Oracle. SCR, DB2

  (Visual hour to realing elegaters inswittential, project least and
- pressures. Above average communication skill - Pachetor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology / Computer Engineering:

  1 to 2 years stylerience as Programmer

  Should be obeyt at least these (3) of the following peogrammaing (languages Clumpuage, Chr., Cit. Visual Salac, ASP,net, VB net, Oracle SQL, D82 etc.

  Assprace computers as his PROGRAMMERS
- MULTIMEOUS DESIGNER / DEVELOPERS - Bachelor's Degree Graduate - 1 year expanence as Multimedia Designer / Developer Knowledgeoble in Autobe Photoshop, Macrathedia Flat
- Video Edung Average communication with Can work with microsom supervision WEB DEVELOPERS PRED DEVELOPERS
  Bachado's Degrees in Computer Science / Information Technology 2
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  Can do free hand skelching

  Average construmication sus

  Cen work with summum supe relation

  Creative **GRAPHIC ARTISTS**

You can submit your application their E-mail - hrd@soundosystem.com or hrd@go2ph.net (Please indicate position as your e-mail subject.) of Mail to First IT Center, 7373 Sakswan St. San Antonio Village, Makeli City.

## IMMEDIATE HIRING

## SALES ENGINEER

- Engineering graduate
- Possesses good communication skills
- Honest and hardworking With previous sales experience

## **AIRCON TECHNICIAN**

Single, Vocational Graduate With minimum 5 years experience

**AUTO AIRCON TECH** 

Single, With 5 years min. experience Please apply in person with resume & picture to:

> 1650 A. Francisco St., San Andres Bukid, Manila Tel. No. 561-2078 / 562-2703

#### TRINITY MARKETING, INC. Tel. # 351-0909 Look for Fe/Have E-\$1.411, AEITH lengalber@irluity.com.ph

- \* TELE-MARKETING PERSONNEL
- Mole/Peniale, not more than 30 years old
   Oradiane of any 4-year entires \* SALES AGENT/ACCT EXECUTIVE
- Mate/Fernild, not more than 30 years old. Graduut of pay 4-year coatse professibly Marketing major \* CADET PLANT SUPERVISOR
- Mple, and more than 30 years old · Engineering Graduate
- \* ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL Atale/Female, not more than 30 years old Accounting Graduate
- \* MACHINE OPERATOR Atale, not more than Jil years old Pre embly Cullege Level/High School
- \* PRODUCT DESIGN SPECIALIST Mate/Feinde, Gradante of Fine Arts or industrial Design
- With 2-3 years experience in Packaging, POP, Penare & Punker Design Can speak (Inglish & newerstand Mandarin, and willing to work in Shonghai, China

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Unity Induires and whit it unline at wew jobnaries online, can

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#### PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER CCP Complex. Roxes Boulevard, Pessy City

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invites highly qualified condicates to apply for the following job vacancies:

	Bechaior's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and/or Mass	good en
Coordinates specific requirements of events with other departments to unsues efficient delivery oil services! Ensures	Coren, and/or Tourism or other fields	-00
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#### BALES AND WARKETING SPECIALIST

Undertakes regular sales calle, muintains and concres reminisms productivity of accesses ensigned and conduct "exploratory calls" on now accounts to marketize potential revenues? Maintains an updated Account File Record to ensure efficient relacences. Frequent Latters of Proposal to clients based on their requirements and coordinates these to the different departments as moded. Assist to the grapusation of nacessary meterals for marketing presentations and bid papers. / Encours tracels flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system.

Coordinates specific residenseries of events with other departments to measure efficient service to clients. / Ensures settement of all financial obligations by clients and proportalizant ingress and agrees of clients' equipment and properties. (Conducts breeings for climits and fluir contractors to misures clarity on miles, regulations and policies.) Previous estimates of charges as well as the linet extension of expenses to assure proper billing to clients.) Propages and excising contract provisions to clarin and discusses postetions and obligations for their proper implementation. Prepares Terminal Reports. Nested in the implementation of the ownest plane and programs of the Chiefan J Conducts ocular respections of facilities for clients. Manures that clients authors to policies, sales and regulations. J Greanes smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account. Status Trace system.

Facilitates the implementation & periodic reptaining of the PICC's integrated information System as to its efficiency, efectiveness, performance à submite appropriate recommunitation. Amolyses resource utilization à britates compute program improvements. Institis the methods, defines capacity, sights & handles selectation & configuration of malmost set up when required. Conducts product evaluations, propose approxing of computers, assumes the defect of system administrator, plans & implements system security policy such as host & client access. Se primessons & over accounts. Regularly checks if security patches are updated, and applies them if wouldn't in the Operating Systems. Recommends additional security software when needed for the server, work stations and LAM. Perissus duity episters auditor boubleshooting if required. Updates relevant accesses.

#### PLANTONS AND SAFETY ENGAGER

Implements safety procedures and programs of the Center and assist the Director of Technical Services in work planning, implementation and mornitating of different probabilist relevant to excusive procedures and future projects of the Center. Disseminates safely rules, regulators and procedures in accordance of the local and national government. safety codes thru constant coordination with the depotences and safety organizations in the Philippens. Recommends actions on the procurement of supplicatinatesals, repeat and epigrating of equipment. Assists in preparing project access of works, bill of materials, cost estimate, requisitions for the needed accretes and controlle, and in the contact of inventory of supplies, parts and melanets.

Maintains es well as installe mempige works of all lint protection pipelines, automotic fire spiritifing systems, fint hose and fire hose cabinets, fire estimataters, fire pumps, distant and fire mater strange. Ignits, like easts and other life related systems and accessories and sees to R that been throughouters are always in good working condition and mady to be activated when the need arrows. Coordinates with the Bureau of Five Publication in carrying but the application of fire extes or other building ordinances in relation to the function and operation of these systems or other applicable systems. Assists in the preparation of work plans and extended for daily learn most, and activities emergency, salety and healing eneronment. Prepares reports and sale beens operation and maintenance records.

Assists in the operation, Assistenance, repair of air conditioning systems, chiller, condenser pumps, cooling towers, air handing units and elies' exceptions, packaged and window air conducting swits, water pumps, verificition equipment systems, retrigeration & talches equipment, and building reamagement systems. Leach deling work operations. Determines types of workers to do the required jobe & the number supplies, parts & materials. Coordinates with section supervises contractors rendering services directly effecting the Directon or his assigned basis. Develops and estudy and trains co-workers/subcrotrains to continue improve their stalls needed for the pile to assume higher importsibilities.

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For Sales and Marketing Specialist and Events Services Specialist constants. thee (3) to fast (4) years of adjusts west experience from an every experient company, hold or other 

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science Computer Technology or Computer Engineering.

phoracy side, free and Fire (5) years experience as System office Administrator, two (2) years of which With relevant tracting should be in a supervisory capacity. Technology/System Adjenies alon.

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April 2, 2006 Interview-All professions: 10,00 AM: 2:30 PM PREE Senting (durant/PT/OT): 3:00PM-5:30PM Interview-All professions, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

April 3, 2505 teterview-Altprolesticate 9:30 AM 5:00 PM PREE Seminar (Other Professionals), 5:00PM-8:00PM

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#### Basic Requirements for Interview

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## Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for

## HEALTHIPOPULATION INUTRITION MANAGER

Reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director of the Philippines Field Office, the Health Manager will be primarily responsible for providing overall direction to the health, population and nutrition efforts of the Philippines Field Office. He/she will provide technical inputs to the Health Coordinators in existing program areas related to the implementation of programs/projects under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). Heishe shall also serve as a flaison for health initiatives between Save the Children and its partner agencies. He/she may also be requested to provide technical assistance to these on to resource peneration is this partner agencies. He/she shall also be rest

## sector and for coordinating efforts in pursuing funding opportunities

The Health/Population/Nutrition Manager shall: (1) provide technical inputs for programming and decisionmaking related to the health, population, nutrition sector, (2) Propers project proposals for submission either to funding agencies or to other Save the Children offices, and develop/refine HPN strategies towards scaling up or institutionalization. (3) provide technical support for the Health Coordinators in existing program areas, (4) Coordinate with head office HPN staff and provide them with inputs/technical support for securing central grants for this sector, (4) Prepare reports to funding agencies, home office, partner organizations and the Deputy Field Office Director, (5) Document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, technical

presentation to local and international audience or for direutation among special groups. The position will based in Matro Manila and will require periodic travel to other program areas licito and Mindango. During these trips, HPN Manager is expected to prepare detailed acopes of work, trip reports and similar documentation of activities undertaken in the field.

This is a center position requiring strong leadership and management skills, Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Doctor of Medicine or Bachelor's degree in related discipline required; Minimum of ten years program development experience. Demonstrated training and research sides. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumes on or before April 12, 2006 to By mail - CODE. HPN MGR, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makett City, Metro Manila. By fact (632) 853-02-15. By e-mail: HB. Becruitment@cavectalcren.org (piecse indicate code THPN MGPT in subject line).



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## SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

Reporting directly to the Sponsorship Manager, the Sponsorship Coordinator will be primarily responsible for supervising and coordinating sponsorship services of the Philippines Country Office. He/she will be responsible for the following functional areas appnaoration services, sponsor servicing and correspondence; annual femily update and annual status report; mid year eligibility checks and the third annual mailing; fourth annual mailing; sponsor visits; Director's letter and child inventory.

The Sponsorship Coordinator shall: (1) record and provide quality response to all sponsor related requests and inquiries and coordinate with the respective program areas on inquiries pertaining to children under their program impact areas; (2) plan, coordinate and ansure the accuracy of data gathered in the regular conduct of annual family updates; (3) plan and poordinate with the Sponsorship Manager on the conceptualization and implementation of third and fourth annual mailing and eligibility check requirements; (4) occordinate and errange itinerary and logistics of Sponsor visits in close coordination with program staff; (5) develop, ensure and deliver annual holiday cards and Director's letters to all PhCO sponsors; (6) plan and manage case history requirements including conduct of orientation to parents and coordination of case history collections; (7) supervise stall operations of the PhCO Sponsorship Unit to ensure meeting of targets; (6) ensure that monitoring systems are updated for purposes of tracking sponsorship activities; (8) ensure that sponsorship files/records are updated and readily available.

This is a position requiring strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO is highly preferred; Bachelor in Constrantesion Arts or related field preferred; Minimum of two years experience in related positions, Demonstrated training and customer relation skills. Fluency in English required. Computer therapy a must. Professional work experience in a musti-custural work a plus,

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## Quality jobs left unfilled due to mismatch — DOLE

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Patricia A. Sto. Tomas has reliterated that there are quality job opportunities in a number of sectors in the country that are left unfilled because of the persistent problem of jobs-skills mismatch. In order to tackle jobs-skills mismatch, she said that the DOLE has initiated efforts to enable the education and training system to generate the right workers required by the nine emerging industries tagged as key employment generators of the country's economy Based on the Action Plan

of the recently concluded National Manpower Summit, the nine sectors are projected to generate more than four million new employment from 2006 to 2010, of which more than 1.2 million are expected to be generated from the years 2006 to 2007 alone. Sto. Tomas said that in 2006, the top three job generating sectors are agribusiness with a projected 329,609 jobs, followed by cyber services with 148,350, and hotels and restaurants with 56,001 Sto. Tomas, however, stressed that, "while there are quality jobs available in these

sectors, the problem lies in mismatch, or the challenge of filling them up with qualified manpower possessing the required skills and competencies," The Summit, she saiThe DOLE sees appropriate education and technical training as an effective solution in all minating obs-sidils mismatch. The DOLE is already in collaboration with government departments, industry stakeholders, and the social partners to ensure the advancement

of the country's human

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# Preserving culture is a service to country

By Raissa Claire Rivera Falgui

HER DAY HAS JUST BEGUN, EXEcutive Director of the National Museum Corazon Alvina is already inundated with messages and phone calls on matters that must be dealt with before she can settle down in her office in the National Museum's Old Administration building to be interviewed. Asked what her work entails, Alvina laughingly explasss, "It cannot be told briefly-it's managing the National Museum administratively and it's defending Republic Act 492, which is the National Museum Law.. It's kind of large."

And so it is, for her work covers excavations, reference collections to botany, zoology, geology and looking after archeological sites and cultural property (like antiques, buildings) She also takes care of housekeeping, which means seeing to it that the electricity and waters bills are paid, the building is clean, and there are no fire hazards. Right now, Alvina is also overseeing the renovation of the building that will soon become the National Art Gallery and shepherding the legislation that will ensure the funding for the National Museum as well as the culture and arts

in the country. Alvina holds a job that would overwhelm most people with stress, but she claims she is never really stressed by her job. Nor does she take credit for accomplishing all these responsibilities, at least not on her own, as she is assisted by a large staff. "I'm able to achieve because of cooperation, because of other people ... certainly I don't do these things on my own."

## From books to museums

Alvina's career start as a member of the staff of another museum was not something she had actually planned on. Having graduated with a degree in anthropology, she naturally expected to do some kind of cultural work, but she had no definite plans of working in museums. She started working on some

**ALL ABOUT** Work



books with Felice Sta. Maria, known for her work in culture and the arts. "After the Marcoses were booted out, Felice Sta. Maria was made president of the Metropolitan Museum and she asked me to guest curate once in a while. Finally, they thought they should have an in-house person to do this (curating) and they asked me to come in."

She stayed in the Met Museum for 10 years, becoming head of the operations committee, educational and commis-

sions director, then director of the museum and was finally elected president. Then, in November 2001, nearly four years ago, she was invited to become

#### the head of the National Museum. An offer she couldn't refuse

As it happened, she was the unanimous choice of three bodies in charge of selecting the new Director of the National Museum. "The presidential board wanted me, which was happenstance, I suppose, as the board of trustees and an independent search committee also wanted me. So there was no wrangling about who they wanted; they only had to make me say yes. Because I was inclined to say no in the beginning."

It took her some time and much thought to say yes. She was finally convinced to accept the post by Patrick Flores, former chair of the University of the Philippines Art Studies Department who now also works for the Museum She had already sought advice from all her other friends, some were "pro" and some were "con." At the time she spoke to Flores, "I had the same number of pro and con. And Patrick was the last person and he broke the tie by saying, You can't say no, because this is a call

to serve your country." "

While she thinks that describing her position as such is "a little highfaluting," Alvina does believe that it enables her to "make a difference, to serve the causes that will be good for the country."

The causes that she serves are numerous and varied. Alvina finds that being Director of the National Museum not only entails more responsibility but also involves an understanding of more fields of study than her previous work. "In the Met, I only had to deal with art and the applications of pedagogies in art and social sciences, but here we have natural history and so I have also to pay attention to botany, zoology "

Coordinating all these different areas may seem complicated but Alvina maintains that it is not, not really with all the structure to help her. She admits that she was not a naturally organized person to begin with, but she has adjusted and finds that following the interminable rules provided by the goverument actually helps everything run

That's the thing about government service-there are so many rules to guide you and of course, it will make you bureaucratic and there's so much red tape, but if you follow those then nothing should really surprise you . And the rest, I think, is commonsense."

Perhaps it really is that simple. Or perhaps the challenges and complexities don't faze her because she loves her

## Everything is a highlight

The job may not come with much of a financial incentive-Alvina points out museum work certainly isn't a career for those who are interested in getting rich. There are many opportunities for travel, but these trips can be so numerous and demand so much work as to be less enjoyable in themselves.

Still, Alvina emphasizes the enrichat it as a privilege, because if you like thing."



working with heritage, if you like working with antiques, with science, and to be able to make a difference, to be able to change the course of things for those disciplines is a privilege."

Not only does she have the opportumity to constantly learn new things, she also meets "the most interesting people." She feels honored to have met many distinguished Filipinos, especially scientists who usually end up on foreign shores. She meets distinguished foreigners too, mostly directors of other countries' national museums. "So you expand the opportunity for professional relationships, for stimulation

and certainly for friendships." And of course, there is satisfaction in enriching other people's minds, of making them realize the importance of culture and heritage in their lives and seeing this in efforts to conserve and preserve aspects of culture.

In such a career so full of diverse experiences few particular events stand out, but they all together contribute to her sense of fulfillment. "Everything is a highlight to me, even a small thing. I'd like to think my whole life has been ing nature of her work. "I always look a highlight...You learn from every-

## How organizations ...

From page 10\*\*

organization functions by having a better. understanding of business decisions (61) percent) and greater knowledge of the business (38 percent). Sharing the organization's vision also increased productivity (43 percent), ensuring the long-term success of the business.

Tips

Communicating a strategic vision still remains one of the most important and challenging functions of business leaders/managers today. Here are some tips on how to make the vision come alive in your own organization:

1. Discuss the vision frequently and consistently. Incorporate it into every employee's day-to-day routine.

2. Translate the vision into metrics and ensure that management's behaviors are, consistent with the vision of the organiza. tion, group and individual goals.

3. Conduct vision implementation workshops to identify how each department and individual can best contribute to the vision. .

Evaluate how well the organization's vision is being practiced by employees through surveys.

5. Finally, recognize employee behaviors consistent with the vision by giving positive feedback and rewards.

(Ms. Farida R.Pangan is the research and OD officer of Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to ateneocord @admu.edu.ph.)

## 'I am obsessed ...'

share with you is to live the present moment well. Most of our problems and fears are based on living either in the future or in the past, Do not live with your mind daydreaming about the United States visa or concecting the worst possible scenarios. Be peaceful. Concentrate on doing your daily work with excellence. You are right in looking at Singapore as an alternative place to work and sending other application letters. As the saying goes, "Do not put your eggs in a single basket." All the best

(Ms Puangeo is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and training. enterprise advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or call tel. no 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898)

## PEOPLEATWORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo r Editor Progress Goldany Royce

# What are the unwritten rules at work?

things are supposed to work in my company. But it's clear to me that there are also a lot of unwritten rules. How do you learn what gives outside of the personnel manual and operating policies?

Invisible Ink

Everything that I needed to know about the unwritten rules at work I learned from Mr. Mamadou Obotimbe Diabikile. He was shot by police and arrested after he tried to rob the Mali Development Bank in Bamako, Mali Part of the reason that he was shot was that his movements were hindered by the seven pounds of magic charms he was wearing to make himself lavisible.

Unwritten rules at work are like those magic charms As much as they may seem invisible, there are often telltale signs of their existence You've just got to be aware enough to look for them. I've listed same questions below to help you identify the unwritten rules where you work. For more, check out "Survival of the Savvy" by Brandon and Seldman (Free ing how they get things Press, 2005)



What are the official rules? Okay, your company personnel manual might not be the most scintillating summer reading, but it could be some of the most valuable. In addition, read your company's annual report and any published operating policies Study the organizational chart. Read company publications. All of these can provide a glimpse of how the company likes to think things get done.

#### Valuable sources

How does management behave? Most employees have a Ph.D in studying their boss. So this should be nothing new. But it is important to see how they behave and how they maneuver through the bureaucracy. Sure they'll always have an easier go of it, but you can almost always learn a trick or two by watch-

What behaviors are rewarded and acted upon? This is the best part of capitalism, organizations tend to reward certain kinds of behavior with pay increases, bonuses and other bennies. Keep a lookout for exactly what gets rewarded in your organization. Another tool is to see what kind of behaviors get budget, staff and firepower assigned to them. Although the official line may be that the company cares about A, B and C, in the words of Deep Throat, "follow the money" and you just may see that it really values X, Y and Z.

Real priorities

What is the culture of the industry? In addition to com-

pany rules, there are industry practices that you should factor into the equation

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT MOORIGUEZ

Do you talk to the successful people you know? In these days of e-mail, many of us are getting more removed from our coworkers. It is important to take the time to pick the brains of the people that you know are successful. Often this can be achieved for a cup of coffee or a beer.

Keep an eye out for the unwritten rules where you work and you'll never need to rob a bank to get ahead, you'll be laughing all the way to one.

(Mr Rosner, an internationally syndicated cohonnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.)

## How can I improve my performance?'

**ASK YOUR** from March 19) CAVEER WHEN YOU FEEL COUNSELOR the urge to make excuses, think Ernie O.

Cecilia make excuses for not making things happen. Let me share with you some creative ways to overcome the temptation to make excuses. Make fun of your excuses. Write down one encuse at a time on a clean sheet of paper Make ridiculous drawings on it, such as monsters with big ears or eyes. Color it with bold colors to make it even more tidiculous. Then, see how truly ridicu-

twice. You only

#### Make things happen

lous your excuse has become.

Repeat the same process for every conceivable excuse you can think of. In fact, think of the most ridiculous excuses and draw on it, until all your possible excuses look ridiculous to you. Internalize it in your mind, and convince yourself that you will be as ridiculous as your drawings if you give in to your excuses.

Then, begin to visualize the benefits of having to do the things you should do. Blow those benefits out of proportion, or at least exaggerate the benefits of your possible action. Compare the potential benefits with how ridiculous you would be if you don't do what you ought to do. This will show a world of differhappen and making excuses.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned is that the best things in life are not free. Success has a tag price. The people who

succeed are those who are willing to pay the price. Contrary to popular belief, the price of success is not just money. The price could be your time, your attention, your effort to improve yourself - or simply the intelectual curtosity to read this column.

If you want the best things to come your way, go after them. They could be truly clusive, because countless others are after the same things. They usually go, not to the stronger or faster person, but to the ones who believe they can get them and are willing and able to take decisive action. Right here. Right now

(Public service announcement There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His cureer books are available at popular bookence between making things stores. Send feedback to emit\_ ceciba@yahoo.com.)

## 'I am obsessed with working in the US'

FOR THE

ANXIOUS PERSON

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM AN AVID follower of your column because I really love the advice that you

give. There apending application — send applications to other US with an American firm. Frankly, I am no longer happy with my current job especially with some of our company policies.

Anyway, my problem is my obsession with my pending applieation with another company. I've given it great importance because it will enable me to get a US working visa and to settle in the United States. I was initially interviewed last June 2005. Actually, I couldn't believe it when I got an e-mail from them. At first, I thought they might have mistaken me for a US resident because I mentioned in my resumé that I did a project in the US in 2004. But when I got to talk to the recruiter, I was told that they know I am from the Philippines. The recruiter explained to me their hiring procedure, the States that I might cover, and the job. The firm is one of the largest in its industry and has offices worldwide. I have had two interviews with the last one conducted last July. Just one more interview atands between me and the valuable US job. Unfortunately, the H 1B visa ran out in August.

I got an e-mail from one of the interviewers telling me that they will contact me again in April 2006 when the window for new H1B visa applications opens up. I also got a phone call from the recruiter assuring me that they will contact me in April 2006 and continue where we left off, which is the final interview. She even added that I am one of the strongest candidates.

I sent the recruiter a New Year greeting to subtly follow-up my application. But I did not receive any reply. Deep inside, I feel afraid that they might forget me. I know I am slowly getting impatient and insecure. But can you blame me? It is only once in a lifetime that I get this kind of opportunity. What can I do? I don't want to pester them with followup e-mail because they might get annoyed. Do you think they will really contact me in April as they have promised? I've tried keeping myself busy but I can't stop checking my Yahoo e-mail

I don't feel like applying loeally anymore although I plan to apply for the open position in

one of our nies Suignpore at some sort of a backup continue to

6.00

farms that hire foreign workers. Anxious Applicant

Thank you for your letter. The reason you are feeling anxious about your application is because of your fear of losing the opportunity of working in the United States. But anxiety will not solve your problem. Instead, I suggest you face reality squarely and stop being anxious. If the recruiter comes from a presingious recruitment company, then you simply have to trust him or her to be professional. I am sure you can send an e-mail to inquire from time to time about the status of your application. You can expect a can-

did reply from the company But how do you face your fears? My suggestion is to put them down in writing. Somehow, in my personal experience, writing down what bothers me allows me to think more clearly and as a result, I end up with more quality ideas

You can do potential problem analysis. Ask yourself the following question, "What can go wrong with my application?" Some of your answers may be that your application may be forgotten or placed in a dead file. Another fear could be that the opportunity might get lost forever. Or that you may not be one of the lucky ones who will be called once the ban has been lifted

Then, weigh the factors that can go wrong in terms of probability and seriousness. Examining those factors that are highly probable and highly serious, think of what you can do to prevent these factors from happening. These would be termed as preventive actions. In fact, sending a Christmas card is a step in the right direction. It is fine if you don't get a response. You have reminded the recruiter that you are still actively considering the application.

If you put in place the preventive actions, you can go further and ask, "What do I do if even with preventive actions, things still go wrong?" Then your responses will put in place your contingency actions.

The other guideline I wish to

TAM/P TER

## How organizations communicate their company vision

By Farida R. Pangan

TODAY'S COMPETITIVE AND dynamic business climate necessitates organizations having a compelling strategic vision. According to Dave Dolak, author of the book "Creating and Communicating Vision: The Business Leader's Primary Responsibility" (2001), a vision defines what the business is, why it exists and where it is going. When clearly articulated and commumeated, this vision becomes the driving force of the organization It amplifies the leader's ability to anticipate and respond to opportunities or pressures for change. At the same time, it serves to empower, generate commitment and pakikusa among employees enabling the organization to achieve its goals, remain viable and successful in the long run.

However, all too often, statements of vision remain just that statements. Underscoring this point, a study by Harris & Associates (Learning International, large US companies shows that 82 percent of the executives said they had a definite vision of what their company should be-

that a long-term vision was necessary for the company's survival. However, only 38 percent felt that their vision was communicated throughout all levels in the company

In order to find out how organizations their company's vision, People at Work Pulse conducted a survey on this topic. The survey focused on employees' level of awareness when it comes to their organization's vision, the people involved in the crafting of the vision, the current practices in communicating the vision, and the possible outcomes of knowing their organization's vision

Out of the 66 respondents from last month's survey, 58 percent were females with an average age of 33 years. Major-1986) of top executives from ity (65 percent) of them were single with an average tenure of seven years. Sixty-two percent of the respondents worked in private firms, 28 percent come and 79 percent thought worked in the academe, and 10

percent worked in government to be the most common methagencies. All survey respondents reported having a company vision. More than half (57 percent) said they knew the gist of their organization's vision; 39 percent said they memorized it or knew it by heart and four percent said they can state their vision but do not understand it or have no idea what their vi-

Vision formulation

Forty-nine percent of the recommunicate spondents considered crafting the company vision as an important function of the business leader/founder while 20 percent of the respondents consider the managers' and supervisors' inputs as crucial during the visioning process. Only 7 percent said that the staff directly participated in crafting the vision. Surprisingly, only five percent believed that HR took an active role in developing the vision

When asked how the vision was shared throughout the organization, respondents mentioned various communication techniques. Formal and orga nized gatherings such as orientation programs for new hires (66 percent) and meetings and presentations (56 percent) remain

ods. They also mentioned incorporating the vision in the performance employee's deliverables (41 percent), behavior modeling of business leaders (41 percent), followed by advertising/marketing campaigns (40 percent); plaques/ engravings in offices/lobbies (39 percent); company newsletters (34 percent); culture-building activities (33 percent) Twenty percent (20 percent) used technology (via e-mail) Interestingly, only five percent put their vision in their com-

## Shared vision

Effectively communicating the vision throughout the organization could have various outcomes. Results from the survey show it could lead to positive work attitude Specifically, emplovees found more meaning in their jobs (66 percent), have stronger feelings of empowerment (49 percent), loyalty towards the company (43 percent) and improved work relationships (43 percent). Furtherarticulating organization's vision could educate employees about how the

HOW/P TAN

## Sharing than having

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

EVERY YEAR, WE WITNESS GRADUATION ceremonies of bundreds of young people who are very eager and willing to join the workforce. Bouipped with their knowledge and skills, they offer to work in businesses and industries that will have their services. A good number of these compete with several others to get into the top corporations of perhaps maneuver their way to get a job abroad. Having a job and gering the highest salary possible is foremost in the mands of many of these novice workers. We wonder how marry of them would have service to othessastheir man precocupation or the welfare and beseft of the company and society as their priority consideration over their personal interests.

Responding to the challenge to serve God and others in immation of Jeans and His way of serving the Father and others continues to be an alternative choice for young workers to consider even today.

Joining the workforce in order to share oneself (time, talent and life) with others to build a bester and brighter world is certainly a nobler intention than working in order to have more money and satisfaction of one's personal needs. Preferring work which serves more needy people gives greater issuer peace and spiritual satisfaction than working very hard in a high paying job which benefits only but a rich few Jesus continues to call us to share ourselves in the work we do as "servariis."

The culture of "sharing" rather than that of "having" when promoted in the minds of workers and even in those who are being prepared and trained to join the world of work will make our society joyful to receive every year a host of "servant-sharers." (5moil the author at mive@daymounes)



REFLECTIONS

**FOR THE** 

**WORKING SOUL** 

Gospel: John 12: 20-33 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will

honor whoever serves me.

Servant-leaders

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

PERHAPS THEY WOULD HARDLY BE FOUND in big corporations, but true "servant leaders" are among the most inspiring and gracious presences an ordinary worker can find in the workplace. Who are they? They are people in positions of relative power-like department heads, supervisors, managers, "bosses" in general—but who are not afraid to "lower" themselves, to be "one of us." They do not go around with their noses up in the air; rather, they act as workers' buddies while keeping intact their respectability as our bosses.

I will always smile remembering the president and owner of a company-and the building-who would courteously hold the door open for us female employees to pass. Other people would rush to open doors for him but he would not hesitate to do it for the "little people." Likewise, I'd recall a female boss I once knew who, each time she'd make coffee for herself, would not fail to offer her subordinates a cup, and would actually make and serve it herself! She'd do the same for her . fellow-managers and her own bosses, gladly, naturally. (In contrast, there are executive secretaries who refuse to make coffee even for their basses, saying it's the job of the receptionist maybe, of the trainee, the second class cierk or the janitress, etc.)

Such servant leaders show us real strength of character and genuine self-confidencethey know that it's never demeaning to be a humane person. So very like Jesus. (E-mail the author at teresa de manila@yahoo.

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**APRIL 2, 2006** 

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph



BY LEVEL UP GAMES

## RAGNAROK















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## PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.



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KUMUHA KA NG UPOS NG SIGARILYO. KUNIN MO'YUNG FILTER AT PATAKAN NG OIL.













## **BY MIKE PETERS**

## **MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM**



## ZITS

## BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN









## INDAY WANDA

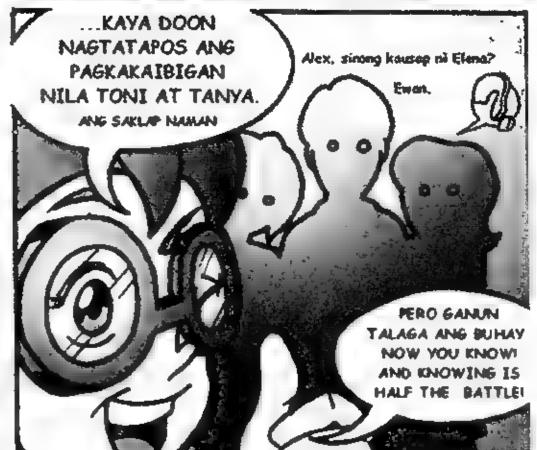
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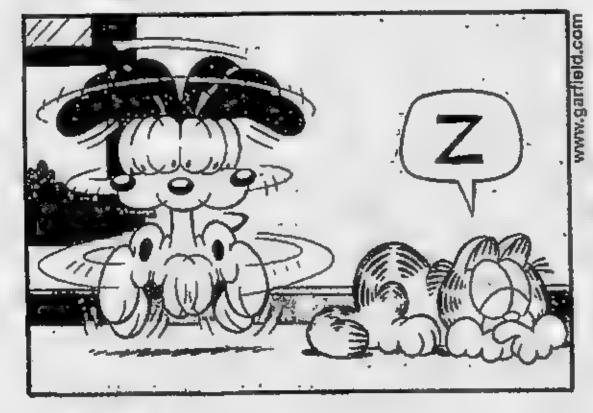
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## BY MANGO COMICS



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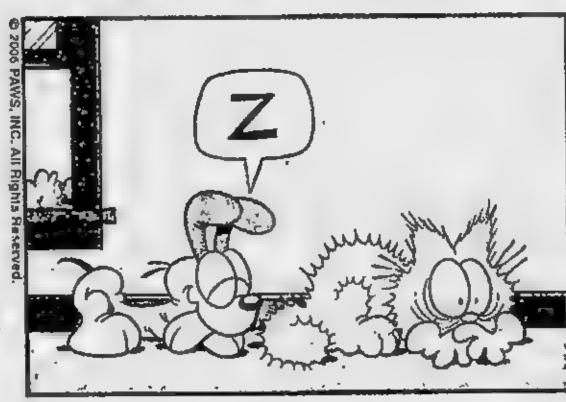












**FULL HOUSE** 

BY STEPH BRAVO





# All they wanted to do was lake (Your) their Lomma ?roud now they're IT.—

with prodigious record
salex and mi upcoming US
tour, Ehin Alcantara and Juris
faroundex, otherwise known as
M.Y.M.P. have arrived, and
intend to stay atop the charts with
the same attitude and work ethic that
turned them into the no. 1 act today.

by Ruel S. De Vera photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

can't see them, but you kneed y're there. It's close to midnight a Friday night, and Bagaberdi, a white-hot music spot in Fadg, is cked. Not a seat remains empty, the restless dark broken only by the occasional blinking of cellphone screens.

In a separate room, the band they've all come to see prepares to take to the stage. Tonight's SRO crowd is by now a regular experience for M.Y.M.P., the acoustic all-stars who have quietly come to dominate the Philippine music

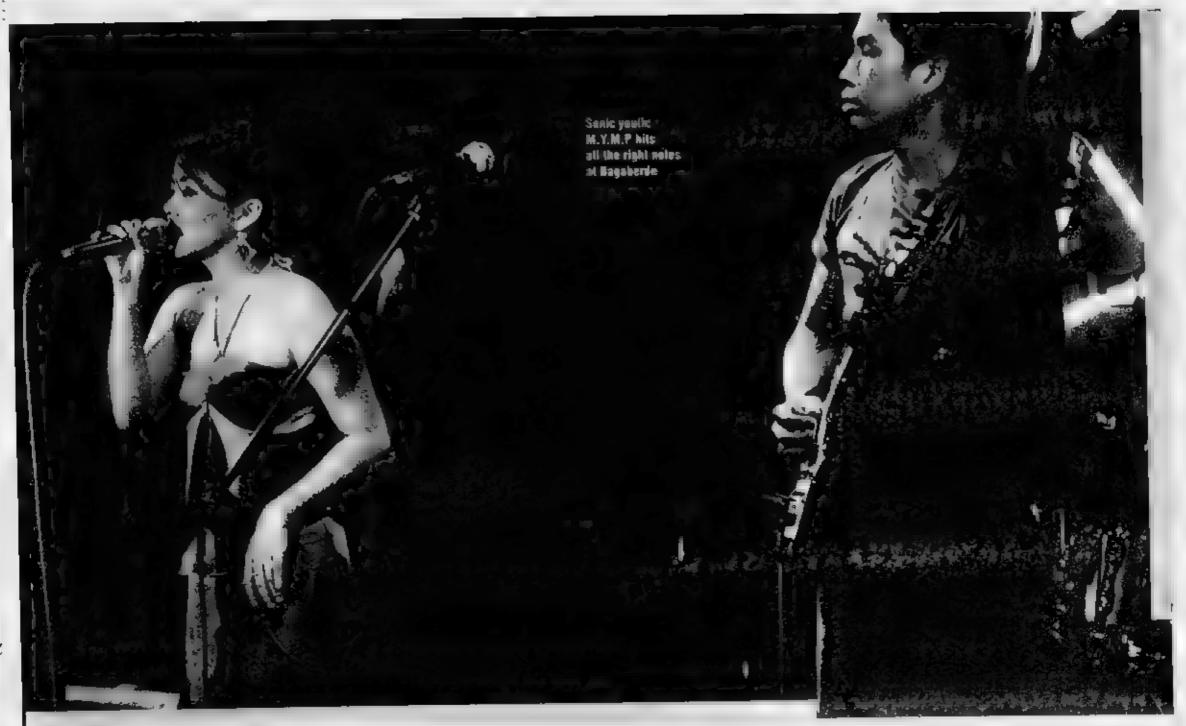
Yet there is gifted guitarist Chin Alcantara, laughing out loud even while he meticulously examines his guitar for the night. There is vocalist Juris Fernandez, she of the exquisite cheekbenes and vocalizange, quietly readying herself. She is quite shy, you see. "I think I'm more shy off-stage with people," Fernandez explains. "I feel more comfortable on stage. The shyness goes away."

Getting II logether: Chin (top) and Juris are long-time Irlands

A new life for Rock Drilon p.3. 5

A new outlook for Candy Pangilman 🛷

A new mission for Martin Camara p.6



## M.Y.M.P. ...from page 1

Words such as "purr," "lilt" and "velvet" are easily applied to Fernandez's voice. She wields it like a delicate but powerful instrument of precision, hitting notes exactly and effortlessly. This melds seamlessly with Alcantara's guitar work, displaying his ability to melt a song down and then reforge it in M.Y.M.P's signature style. It is the band's chimerical ability to play anything-onything-and still sound like M.Y.M.P that has allowed them to outsell pretty much anyone else out there. Yet theirs has been an ascent that is far more adagio than allegro.

No formal training

There is an uncanny number of qualities shared by Alcantara and Pernandez. They both have virtually no formal musical training and, amazingly enough, cannot read sheet music. They describe themselves as homebodies, although that can also be a consequence of their superhuman gig schedule. I just like staying home and sleeping," Alcantara says with a laugh.

What they do not share is a romantic connection. Despite working together closely and becoming instinctively complementary, musically speaking, Alcantara and Fernandez have never been involved and never plan to become so.

Jacques "Chin" Alcantara founded the band back in late 1996. It was Alcantara's elder brother Julius who gave the band its name. Alcantara's mother Stella had died of complications from breast cancer when Alcantara was 17. Back when it was originally formed, Make Your Momma Proud was a four-man rock band, whose arsenal included Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and, as Alcantara adds, a little Mr. Big. He was still a student at Miriam College then, taking up Communication Arts, major in Advertising. "My mom played the piano but she didn't get to see me play professionally—she did get to see me start out," Alcantara says. In the year after his mother died, Alcantara took up the guitar and, in his words, "really got obsessed with it and that's when I knew what I wanted to be, a

Alcantara had tried going to a classical guitar teacher, but stopped after a month. "It wasn't for me," he explains. So Alcantara taught himself how to play.

"It was a long transition," he says. As a college band, M.Y.M.P appeared in college fairs and shows, but as they became more earnest in their intent to pursue music as a career, they encountered difficulty in lining up gigs due to their repertoire. M.Y.M.P. added a keyboard player and began working on a more pop sound, completing the transformation with the addition of a female vocalist in 2000.

New female lead

That first lead vocalist was Marifil Niña Girado, better known today as R&B singer Nina after leaving the band to go solo. M.Y.M.P. then industriously performed in bars, clubs and shows for years, building an identity. In 2001, Alcantara was

auditioning for a new female lead-and found one in someone he already knew.

Julie Iris "Juris" Fernandez went to Miriam as well, taking up Psychology in the hopes of becoming a doctor like her mother Juliet. Originally from Davao, Pernandez explains she didn't grow up exposed to music on a regular basis. "It's only now that I sing a lot." Like Alcantara, Fernandez did not study music formally for long, eschewing the training to learn on her own. After graduating from Miriam, Pernandez was studying at the Ateneo, working towards completing her pre-med requirements when she decided that, like Alcantara, she wanted to immerse herself in music. After singing with Jimmy Bondoc, she fatefully auditioned for M.Y.M.P.

It was the trio of Alcantara, Fernandez and percussionist Mike Manahan that established the beachhead for M.Y.M.P's frontal assault on the sales and radio charts. "When we released our first album, it reached platinum in seven months because we really worked hard to promote it with gigs. It was the second album that happened quickly," Alcantara says.

As the band steadily built its following, it underwent one more shakeup when Manahan left the band in 2003 due to what Alcantara called "professional differences" as well as fallout from Manahan's breakup with Fernandez; the two were in a relationship for a while. Manahan now appears in a band named Michaelangelo with his brother.

Packing Araneta

Taken under the wing of producer and radio brain Raymond Ryan, M.Y.M.P released the Little Album That Could, "Soulful Acoustic," under Ivory Records in 2003. This debut album, together with M.Y.M.P's follow-up "Versions & Beyond" has sold over 200,000 copies in a marketplace surrounded by piracy. This was a blitzkrieg bolstered by original singles like "A Little Bit" and "Get Me" as well as covers of "Waiting ın Vain" (Annie Lennox), "Every Little A The Space to Supply you have to be

Thing" (Sting) and "Especially for You" (Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue). They did bar after bar and venue after venue. Yet their spectacular run contin-

This is, after all, a band that sold out the cavernous Araneta Coliseum-twice. That's more than 10,000 people per show.

What was on display during those major concerts, as well as in the endless TV appearances, is the band's playful and tuneful craft. Aside from Alcantara's and Fernandez's almost relepath ic musical coordination, it has the ability to transcend the nature of covers. Far from being canned regurgitations of Top 40 staples, M.Y.M.P's songlist is eclectic and speaks of their adaptability-easy listening pop with nothing dangerous, hymns of heartbreak and just the right amount of goofing around thrown in. It's perfect barkada music, the mixtape as masterpiece. It is M.Y.M.P's ability to woo both their core audience of latte-sipping, iPodwielding romantics and others beyond it that has sent them on this trajectory.

A dream fulfilled

Now backed by keyboardist Edward Jimenez, percussionist Dexter John Attgeles and bassist Aimiel Rivas, M.Y.M.P. embarks on its most ambitious career step yet: a summer tour of the US West and East coasts, a development that excites Alcantara and Fernandez immensely. "It was a dream we were thinking of fulfilling maybe five years from now," Alcantara says of their hot streak. "I definitely didn't think this would happen," Fernandez chimes in Alcantara hopes to be working on their next album once they return home from the tour.

The incandescent success has made the duo stars, something proven by the fact that they now get recognized when they're out. Pernandez, for one, says she's still in the process of getting used

In a scene littered with shards of broken vinyl and the carcasses of once-hot, now long-gone bands, M.Y.M.P. now faces the challenge of ensuring their own longevity. The first part comes with sticking together, something that doesn't seem to be a problem. "I really don't think about going solo," Fernandez says. "I started my career as a recording artist with M.Y.M.P. and it will end with M.YM R"

Another comes with continuing to evolve as a band. For now, Alcantara finds no issue with the fact that they do a whole lot of covers. "For now, we like playing other artists' songs because that's what we were doing before we became recording artists. But of course, every artist's dream is to create something of their own. We hope that one day we can create an all-origmal album."

## **Good musicians**

In the midst of the endless gigs and the preparations for their tour, Alcantara says he hasn't really thought about what comes next. This weekend, M.Y.M.P. plays in Cebu to what will certainly be an expectant and excited sell-

And nobody, nobody makes fun of what seems to be their incongruous name. "The name was really an attitude," he explains. "I couldn't be a good doctor or a good lawyer, but I could be a good musician." And that's what they're about: "Whatever we do, let's just make our mommas proud." Now, the name has evolved into a tribute for all the band members' parents. "It's for all their patience and support for us even if they originally had other career preferences for us."

The night runs deeper and it's almost time to go on. Now, M.Y.M.P. must dazzle an audience that sits in the soothing darkness, something they must do again tomorrow and perhaps the day after. No matter. Alcantara had just turned 31 the week before, and at midnight, it would be Fernandez's 28th birthday. The crowd takes a deep breath. It's M.Y.M.P's turn, and the  $|\mathbf{Q}|$ party's just starting.

For more information about M.Y.M.P., log on to http://www.mympband.com.

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A QUESTION OF MONEY

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I am greatly dismayed by your feature story on Mark Jimenez (SIM, March 12, 2006). That was clearly what some people call a "praise release." You wrote about his prison experience and how he (legally) accumulated his wealth in Latin America, But there was nary a mention of his role as Erap's "packager" of multi-midion business deals such as the Equitable-PCI Bank merger and the buyout of PLDT from Tony Boy Columngoo by the First Pacific Group, among others, accomplishments that prompted Erap to call him a "corporate ge-

nius." It's no secret that fimenez and his cahoots in Malacañang made millions and millions from these transactions.

You promised us that you would regularly feature "feel good" stories—tales of ordinary people who contribute to the community and who excel despite tremendous odds. Does Mark Imenex fall within this parameter? Are we so bereft of people who could stand up as models for the youth?

I am tempted to ask: Was money involved in the Jimenez story? What's this story I hear that Jimenex has a PR consultant,

a certain Mr. Fernandez? ! believe the decision to write about Jimenez and the go-signal to give him so much space were not purely harmless or objective edstorial discretions. Rather I would like to believe that all this was the work of Mr. Fernandez. That Ilmenez story was a PR piece to project firmenez as a "decent" person who needs our understanding. Now I am inclined to believe coffee shop talk that imenez is eyeing a senatorial post in the next elections, I recall seeing a few months ago in your Across the Nation section a photo of Imenez in Bukidnon where

he was reportedly doing charity work. I suggest you do a quiet investigation on how widespread and pernicious the influence of this Mr. Fernandez is on your ed-Itorial staff. I am told that this same PR guy also counts among his clients Winston Garcia, Angelo Reyes, Leandro Mendoza, Loren Legarda and Richard Gordon. Shame on the INQUIRER for allowing itself to be used in what the heading calls the "resurrection" of Jimenez.

G. MARQUEZ. marquezdegabriel@yahoo.com

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ginz.



by Gina Abuyuan photographs by Rodel Rotoni

# Without Ces, still his gallery

Painter and gallery director Rock Drilon opens up for the first time about his estrangement from wife Ces, and how he funneled his pain into making his vision for "the perfect cafe" and the Mag:Net Plus Art Triangle a reality

EFORE he answers any questions, Rock Drilon-painter, composer, and director of Mag:net Galleries (the "art side" of the Mag:net Plus triangle of the Katipunan, ABS-CBN, and Paseo de Roxas branches)-orders a glass of wine. Heck, he orders two.

"So I can loosen up," he says, stretching his neck. The anxiety is understandable. He's mounting an exhibit the following week, has just re-launched Mag:net Café Katipunan as a gallery "for changing exhibitions" (that's "regular exhibitions" for non-art folk), and it's the first time he's speaking to the media about his widely-publicized estrangement from wife, anchorwoman and TV personality Ces Drilon.

The two keep close communication about Mag:net and the children. Married for 19 years, it's no easy bond to break, "Someone forwarded to me some blind item about Ces," he volunteers, "and I think it was very unfair to Ces. We don't discuss with people what happened to us. The process of our separation was guided by a professional, and we both believe it's in the best interest of the business and the kids. So even in this situation, we continue to be partners in our commonalities, the kids and the business. It's also a struggle but I think we're getting there. Getting better and better. We're friends. Because we know that's

It's almost frome that he's giving the interview in Mag:net Café, "the most complete of what Ces and I envisioned Mag:net Plus to be," Rock says. Both have been very vocal about how they've always wanted to run a store like Magmet Plus, which carries everything the coupie loves: books, magazines, music, art. "Then now you have the café," he continues. "An active, living, breathing space where artists, audiences, teachers, students

meet " Monday nights are upcoming band nights; Tuesday, Musician's Musician's Nights ("MMN-no genre, as long as they're musicians adm.red by other musicians"); Wednesdays, jazz; Thursdays feature Siliy People's Improv Theatre; Fridays, established artists; and Saturdays are Campusition Nights, which has become a sort of advocacy for Rock Drilon and his faith in the musical talents of students from different universities. "For one thing, it's also a way to provide a venue for talents around the area. Ateneo alone has 60 bands. I think artists without a venue are dangerous people," he adds with a laugh.

Showing off

The response to Campusition Nights has been enormous. Up to four bands get to show off every Saturday, and these aren't just from the Kattputtan area. There's even a band from Assumption, Rock relates, who, in true Assumptionista form, have yayas and drivers waiting for them after their gig "Anyone can play," he explains. "The only rule is, they play original compositions." It's a component of Maginet Café that Rock's quite proud of, along with re-organizing the first floor, which has the book and magazine section in a nook in the back, and the wider hall as a gallery. He's also added a "CR Gallery" in the-yes, you guessed it-loo upstairs.

He laughs hard when asked what exactly "CR" means. "Comfort Room? Chaber's Room? Ces Room?" Then he explains: "It started actually when we had Chabet's work there for almost a year. That work was actually sold, but the collector never really came back to get it, so on the day we returned it to Chaber, it was like there was something lacking in the room. So it gave me an idea. Why not make this (the CR) a venue? And more than anything, I think it's cute, you know It doesn't lack programming.

Every month it changes.

"We have a stable of about 70 artists, some of them students, some emerging, and some established," he says. "But even with the ABS and Paseo branches, you could only exhibit around 24 artists a year. So what happens to the others? But with the CR gallery, we just might be able to exhibit all the artists in our stable. With the completion of the Maginet art triangle of ABS, Paseo, and Katipunan, I could claim that Mag:net Galleries have the most number of shows in a year. Over 50 shows a year."

In limbo

Indeed, it looks like Rock Drilon's got it altogether-a far cry from last year, when he and Ces went public with their separation. The direction of the Magnet galleries was in limbo, and in the art circle, tongues wagged about how devastated Rock was-so devastated that he just packed up and left, leaving behind his duties as gallery director.

"My leaving for the US was actually planned," Rock explains. But it was also fraught with uncertainty, and he dealt with it like a good manager would. "I said goodbye to the employees, one by one. I told them there might be a change in management or leadership. But what's important is that we're committed to the vision of Mag:net. I also talked to the kids and my partners." Orrie, his eldest, is 19 and already sits on the board.

Rock's sabbatical would last up to three months. "I said I'd be away for a month minimum, and three months maximum. To look at myself. Go through the process of healing because it wouldn't be possible here. I felt like I was disintegrating and if I continued to stay, sooner or later, that kind of state of mind would be reflected in everything that I do, whether in parenting or heading an organization." He was also frustrated about how the galleries in the ABS-CBN and Paseo de Roxas branches weren't aligned.

He couldn't express his pain here, he says. "In the US, I could talk to people about it without worrying about the implications. Even if I talked to chosen friends here, it's different. So for three months in the States, I was able to do that." Rock talked, Rock painted. He rented a friend's studio in Brooklyn and produced the senes of paintings included in the recently-concluded "Recent Paintings," Rock's first solo exhibit since 2004, which opened on his birthday two weeks ago. Art critic Lisa Ito calls the collection, which features "lines and undulations into loops, circles, and masses.. an entire journey into the eventual unraveling of self."

Clearing the cobwebs

He also got to clear the cobwebs in his head, and when he came back, was ready to take over the galleries at ABS-CBN and Paseo de Roxas, and came up with the idea of the aforementioned CR Gallery, "So when I came back, sure enough, I was stronger; my mind was clearer. And though it was still a struggle, the coping had progression, compared to when I left. So now, I think ... it's good. It's not perfect yet, but at least I can say I'm healthy and I'm in the right mind to assume what I'm tak ing care of, whether it's the business or the kids."

The artist who balances both creativity and business sense is rare. Rock is one of them, though he begs to disagree. "I'm not. Between the both of us, Ces is better at business. She's a natural," he says. He's more of a visionary. She and his business partners provided the balance, "I'm still developing that business side of me after the separation."

After any break up, Rock summises,

"your first instinct is to find a replacement because you lost something that the other originally has—and vice versa. I went through that, it was devastating, because you can never really find a replacement. So if ever a separation happens, you have to learn to develop what was in her that's not in you. And that's what I'm learning now It's not going to happen overnight, but that's the direction I'm tackling. And I hope for the same for her also."

In his element

Last March 13, Rock turned 50 and opened "Recent Paintings," The party starts early, with the usual suspects present and ready to party progressive artist and University of the East Fine Arts Dean Gerry Tan, sculptor Reg Yuson, painters Pablo Biglang Awa and Nilo Harde, and a lot more.

A little before 8 p.m., poet Vim Nadera comes out dressed in black garbage bags and hands out pink toilet paper with something political scribbled on it. His performance which consists of a drummer and him reading the papers in Mag:net's "poet alcove," ends 40 minutes later. More well-wishers from all walks of the art scene trickle in: Grace Nono, Gilda Cordero Fernando, SPIT performers Beepsie Mayuga-Mercado and Gabe Mercado. Upstairs, upcoming bands mingle with old.

The stress from a week before is gone; Rock goes around, visibly in his element. This is his vision come alive, even when he himself almost "disintegrated." "This is the perfect café concept," he says. "It's not just CDs-the musicians that make the CDs, they perform here. It's not just books-the authors that write them, they read here. And the visual artists-they get drunk here!" he laughs, But Rock goes around sans wine glass. He's okay. He's at home.



## heater Tales

by Alya B. Honasan

NY WRITER who thinks she can interview Candy Pangilinan without a tape recorder is in for a spin. The bubbly comedienne of TV, film and live shows talks like a machine gun on Red Bull, releasing round after round of one-liners in the same deadpan manner, a gift of comic delivery that helped her dinch last year's Aliw Award for the best female comedy act.

And then there's the repeat of her successful Valentine's show, "Candy's Be Love?", set for April 8 at the Music Museum, "Love has no occasion, di ba?" she says of the timing. "People fall in love and get hurt, women go crazy. But more importantly, it's about loving yourself."

I was ready for the verbal onslaught, as I've known 33-year-old Candy since her college days, when she and her contemporaries from the college of theater arts of the University of the Philippines (UP), like comedienne Eugene Domingo and director Andoy Ranay (still her close friends), made the backstage of the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater their second home. As one of many for whom theater means Dulaang UP and the one and only Professor Tony Mabesa, Pve seen Candy hammer together props and help squeeze people (yours truly included) into costumes. I've also seen her do drama, so I've long known that there's much more to this manic, cute-as-a-button stand-up performer than the general public real-

Depth of character

It's a depth of character that was severely tested in the last couple of years, when Candy's young marriage came to a painful and public end. But more on that later.

Now managed by Dondon Monteverde, Candy started out in showbusiness some 12 years ago, playing Lorna Tolentino on the TV satire "Abangan Ang Susunod na Kabanato." That was followed by a regular appearance on the comedy show "Mixed Nuts." The funny part is, she didn't really plan on doing comedy. "It just so happened that was what was available," she says with a laugh. "But I think that's what peopie see as my natural self. I've never been prim and proper."

Her first actual brush with showbusiness, however, was more auspicious. Just in the second year of her theater arts course in UR Candy dropped by the shoot of the film "Dito Sa Pitong Gatang" to bring her friend Harlene Bautista a pair of socks on the set. There she caught the attention of no less than Fernando Poe Jr. himself. "FPJ saw me, asked if I are already, and I said no, so he fed us. Then he asked me, 'Are you working?' I said, 'No, and as a matter fact I can act, so please hire mel" FPJ laughed and said there were no more roles available, but with characteristic gumption, Candy insisted that Harlene's character needed some friends in the picture. Two days later, she was called to the set to shoot. "It was only when I was in front of the cameras that it finally sank in that, oh my God, it really was FPJ "

Mischievous girl

Candy knew she wanted to be a performer as early as age 4, she recalls. She was born in Manila, the third of four kids brought up by single mother Dori Pangilinan, an interior designer. Her father had died when Candy was only 8, but although her brother was a virtual father figure to her, being 10 years her senior, Candy still found herself striving, "to prove something to myself and to my mother. It was a happy childhood, though. Hindi naman ako nakasuot ng sako o nagtutulak ng kariton (I wasn't dressed in burlap or pushing carts) "

She was a mischievous girl, enough to get kicked out of Mary-



market and the After her young marriage fell apart and she was left alone to raise her baby, there would be days when she'd be sobbing backstage and laughing onstage. **But as Candy Pangilinan** eventually learned, being happy is a decision —and finding joy in your heart is a gift



knoll High School after she forged a signature for a classmate's exam permit. "See? I was just trying to help her. I'm a nice person naman,

Graduating from St. Paul's, she enrolled in theater arts at UR unbeknownst to her mother, who thought she was in a business course in La Salle. "I knew I wanted to be an actress, but I didn't know I would be in the mainstream. I was just thinking of theater, and I knew even then that it wouldn't be lucrative, but that was okay with me." Her mother only found out when Candy invited her to a performance at UP, and Mabesa introduced Candy as one of the freshmen of the college of rheater arts. "My mom didn't get mad, but I saw her sigh in the audience, like she was saying, 'Hay naku, I really cannot stop this garl."

Candy remains close to her morn, from whom, she believes, she inherited her comic timing. "She says the funniest things even with a poker face." Her own trademark style, Candy says, is combination of "my candor, and lots of prayer. The reason I'm here is because of lakas ng loob (guts), although I really enjoy performing." Mabesa's most memorable advice to her? "When going for something, always aim for the highest. That's why whenever he asked me what grade I thought I deserved, I always said, '1' " Candy is a thesis shy of her diploma.

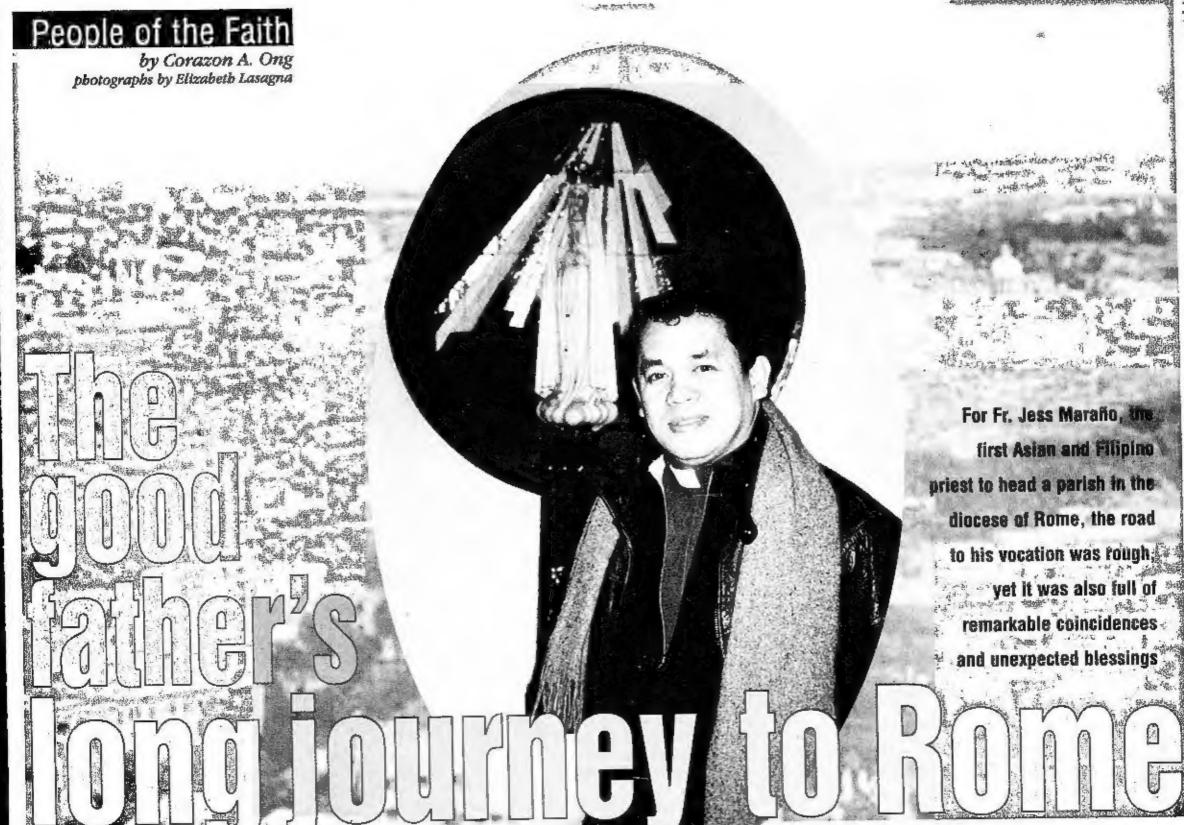
**Rock bottom** 

In 2001, Candy married her boyfriend of seven years. In 2003, she gave birth to son Quentin. A month after their son was born, her husband left her for another woman. "He was already telling me he was going to leave when I was pregnant, so I was really stressed," she says. "He said I wasn't a good person, and I was meane and paranoid because of my suspicions that he was having an affair. The worst part this was, I believed him for a while." So-ind much, that she actually had herself psychiatrically tested, and was skeptical when doctors told her she was normal. "Then someone saw him in a movie theater with another woman, so I knew I wasn't crazy or imagining things."

Rock bottom, Candy recounts, was when she realized she was alone, had no work, was "super fat" and had no money. "I wasn't sure anymore if it was post-partum depression or regular depression." Candy would have had a breakdown, she admits, if not for her family and friends. "Also, I just kept thinking that there was nothing I could do. I've never been the type to make babad (wallow), although it was really hard to get out of this one. It wasn't funny anymore-nagiging horror movie nat"

With the help of a counselor, Candy learned to see things in the right perspective, "Being happy is more of a decision," she says. So in less than a year, she was back to work, to jobs that were thankfully just waiting for her. "It was hard-fighting the anxiety, and explaining to people what happened. And I cried on my friends! They would come to my house to eat, and I'd cry while they watched TV and just listened, and then they'd tell me to go to sleep after I had tired myself out. Nobody really babied me."

A gift Candy sought succor in sleep and watching cartoons, because "everything else would make me cry. You know how it is, when everything has a meaning? I'd see a Jollibee commercial, and I would cry. I cried in front of the mirror, until I got sick and tired of it." She developed a virtual split personality, sobbing backstage and then laughing onstage, until her counselor gave her a wonderful explanation. "Sinabi niya, that's how you know you have a gift. When a gift is given to you, the gift never changes no matter how you change," It was also her counselor who advised Candy to forgive and move on. "The forgiveness was



S AN education major in college, Fr. Jesus M. Maraño, or simply Fr. Jess, did a class report on Rome, which impressed his professor so much he was exempted from taking the finals. Coming from a poor family in Anislag, Daraga, Albay, Fr. Jess never entertained the idea that he would one day set foot in Rome, much less make history by being appointed the first Asian and Filipino priest to head a parish in the Diocese of Rome.

Did his appointment surprise him in any way? "Everyone was surprised. The Concordato (agreement) between the Holy See and the Republic of Italy, forged in 1929 and renewed in 1984, states that, with the exception of Rome, all parishes in Italy must be headed by Italian citizens," Fr. Jess says. "You could say I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, but the post entails a big responsibility."

The eldest son and second in a family of seven, he was not particularly keen on studying. He had red marks in his high school report card, and often had to attend make-up classes. "I did not want to study, and I was a pasaway (brat), so my father would punch me, and my mother would run after me with a stick while shouting, 'Hesus ka pa naman' (And to think your name is Jesus)," he recalls with amusement.

His baptismal name was Romeo, but being a sickly child, his parents, upon the insistence of his grandfather, decided to change it to Jesus. "There is this custom in my province that when a child gets sickly in the first year of life, the child's name is changed. Besides, I was also born on December 25."

## Providential

Looking back, Fr. Jess believes that everything that happened to him was providential. "Despite my aversion to schooling, my parents never wavered in their decision to make me finish my studies, and I will always be grateful for that," he says. Apart from his parents, he also credits a classmate who spurred him to give his best in his studies. "She was so good in class, I was encouraged to do no less." They would be sweethearts until the day he entered the seminary.

His father, Antonio, was a foreman who passed away in 2000. He would often bring his son to the construction site. "I washed stones and helped make hollow blocks," Fr. Jess adds. His mother, Edna, a dressmaker, died in 2003, but not before visiting her son thrice in Rome and meeting his parishioners, who were generous enough to provide her plane ticket each time she came to Italy. A most memorable visit, no doubt, was in 2000, when her son brought her to the Vatican for an audience with Pope John Paul II.

He does not remember getting any call from God to join the priesthood, but when he was about 16, and without the knowledge of his girlfriend and his parents, Fr. Jess found himself spending more and more of his free time vislting the sick in the Albay Provincial Hospital.

"To gain life, you have to give life, so I would visit the sick and talk with them. What little I could spare, maybe one or two pesos, I would give to some of them. Sometimes, if they could not hold on to it, I would leave the money under their pillows. The experience brought me so much joy, I'd leave the hospital on cloud nine. The joy was so intense, yet I had nobody to share it with." He ended up confiding everything to Monsignor Ramon Agunday, dean of philosophy at Aquinas University, who, after their talk,

asked him, "Why don't you become a priest?"

#### Entering the seminary

Fr. Jess did not give the suggestion a second thought. But one day, while walking near the Cathedral, he met the auxiliary bishop of Legaspi, Bishop Liloy Quiambao, who stopped him in his tracks with the query, "When are you entering the seminary?"

Ar first, Fr. Jess thought Msgr. Agunday must have told the bishop about their conversation. "But with so many people passing the Cathedral every day, how could Bishop Quiambao have singled me out when we didn't even know each other?" In any case, the Bishop asked Fr. Jess to see him, and succeeded in convincing the young man to enter the seminary by promising him that he could always leave if he changed his mind.

Entering the Holy Rosary Seminary in Naga was tough, and started with a three-day examination. A month after, a big envelope announcing that he had passed the exam arrived in their house. Fr. Jess gathered the whole family and told them about his decision to enter the seminary. His mother cried profusely, while his father thought he was crazy. "In my hometown, there is this superstition that one parent will die before the ordination of their child, and my father, having this in mind, objected to my entering the seminary. My mother, on the other hand, objected because she was depending on me to help support the family. She thought she was losing everything. Besides, studying in the seminary is expensive and we could not afford it, but I assured her, If the Lord wants me to enter the seminary, He will provide everything."

## Not one centavo

And God did provide. From the time Fr. Jess entered the seminary, not one centavo was spent by his family for his schooling and upkeep. "The few times they visited me, they wanted to give me some money, but I told them to keep it instead and set it aside for my brothers and sisters." He also kept his expenses to a minimum. The news of his entering the seminary reached friends, classmates and teachers alike, and help came, in cash and in kind. Slowly but surely, the road to priesthood was being paved for Fr.

Barely a year after entering the seminary, he was sent to Rome by Msgr. Concordio Sarre to finish his studies. When he first broke the news of his departure to his parents, his mother cried and told him about a recent dream she had. She saw her son in a black cassock surrounded by many children. "The dream was almost prophetic, because when I arrived in Rome, along with the other seminarians, we were immediately given black cassocks to wear. I arrived in Rome for the first time on May 15, 1985, and for seven straight years while studying, I was cut off from my family except for a letter I wrote them every month. Each time, my mother would ask, When are you coming back?\*\*

## Abandoned

He knew that his family was burting and his parents could hardly cope with sending his brothers and sisters to school. One time, he even got an irate letter from his younger siblings, who told him, "Iniwanan mo kami (You abandoned us). You have a nice life there while we are suffering here."

Fr. Jess was himself in agony, however. "Many times, my tears and perspiration would mix. I was terribly homesick and I was working so hard, I would often prostrate myself in the chapel and pray to God: Do You really want me to stay here? Do You want me to become a priest? If You really want me to stay here, please help my parents, my brothers and sisters back home." Prayers gave him the strength he needed. In between his studies and work, he regularly sent money back home. For seven years, Pr. Jess did not buy anything for himself except a computer, which he needed for his work. All his savings were dutifully sent to his parents, who in turn used it to build a new house and send the rest of the children to school.

In 1992, he came back home, already a full-fledged priest. His father threw a big party with practically the whole town in attendance. After a month, he returned to Rome to begin his studies in canon law. While studying, he wrote the bishops of Rome and Legazpi, both telling them of his desire to serve in Legazpi, but before the bishop of Legazpi could answer, Fr. Jess was given his first assignment in Rome—as hospital chaplain of San Filippo Neri, which is close to his present parish of Nostra Signora di Fatima (Our Lady of Fatima).

## The ABC's

Prior to his current post, he was assistant priest for 12 years in three different parishes in Rome. He has also served as a cruise chaplain, where he would often meet some kababayan

working as crew members of the ship. In 2000, while going through the papers of his late father, he learned that his father had been sending five poor children to school-an undertaking the family decided to continue. Thus, the ABC Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was born. "ABC stands for Alphabetization for Better Condition of Living, because education will no doubt improve the lives of these children," Fr. Jess explains. "After my father died, we decided not to divide his insurance among us, but instead use the money to start the foundation." Launched in 2001, the foundation currently serves 61 students.

"My mother had told me many times, These children must be the children I saw in my dream of you," Fr. Jess says. "To me, these are the very same children I asked God to give me."

Donations are welcome to support the ABC Scholarship Foundation. Readers may contact any of the following: Bobby Maraño: Anislag, Daraga, Albay, (0918) 328-5795; Danny Maraño, Anislag, Daraga, Albay, (0918) 394-1193; Rev. Fr. Jess Maraño: Parish of Nostra Signora di Fatima, Via Fontanile Nuovo 88, Rome, Italy, +39 (06) 30810373



## To Your Health

by Marge C. Enriquez

uses his hands and the Winter Olympics in Turin, to heal—and Italy-and, his patients swear, his touch has helped them bag medals

it's taking him places

ARTIN Camara, doctor of chiropractic, has been known for fixing the backs and loosening the necks and shoulders of the country's most influential people. His good looks didn't hurt, either. Beyond the pedigree and the strong hands, the 38-year-old chiropractor has the drive and the inclination to get a move on projects outside the clinic, ranging from his involvement in government and social work to, most recently, sports medicine. Under Intercare Healthcare System, of which Camara is the CEO and direc-

the recent Southeast Asian Games. "Our gold medals would have just been silvers, were it not for intercare," says Mark Joseph, president of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association. And, last February, Camara was the only Asian chiropractor to par-

tor, the national aquatic team broke records in

ticipate in the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Still in its infancy in the Philippines, chiropractic is unmown to many. "Chiropractors are architects of the human body, where they can align the joints of the body and address functional muscular problems before they become symptomatic," Camara explains. "Low back pain, for example, is caused by a joint that is not aligned. This results in restrictions in the body's range of motion. A functional short leg will eventually lead to a slipped disc or possible scoliosis because of the imbalance caused by the dropping of the hips. By measuring, assessing and correcting these discrepancies early on, one is able to prevent serious back problems, and the athlete or patient can perform their activities or sport at an optimal level. Our job is make sure the body is properly aligned, the muscles are free of restrictions, scar tissues are repaired and the joints are moving through their full range of motion so people can enjoy their sport or activity."

More than a job

It's more than a job for Camara, however; it's a vocation he is most dedicated to, "Being able to heal with your hands, and not through medication, makes it even more exciting. I really am fortunate to have come across a profession which sits so well with my personality and philosophy in life."

Making it better: D. Camara treats Olympian Gabriella Bascelli of the Italian Rewing Team

Camara's work has come a long way. When chiropractic was introduced in the Philippines in the '50s, doctors worked in small offices, adjusting misaligned joints. In 1994, Camara blazed the trail by establishing the Intercare Healthcare Systems, a clinic that imbibed the multidisciplinary and drugless approach to healing. Certain ailments could be treated using natural approaches instead of drugs

From its early days, Intercare attracted upscale clients. It was even through one of Camara's patients that he met his future wife, Suzanne Faeinar, at a dinner. They hit it off instantly, as they shared a common experience of studying and living abroad. She had just finished her studies in international relations and diplomacy at London's Schiller International, and he had spent his youth in the States. They were married in 1995.

Beating the odds

Two years into their marriage, Camara began to feel a pain in his groin that was initially misdiagnosed. The couple would even have two sons, Rafael Luis Martin and Santiago Manuel. As the pain later worsened, Camara had a biopsy, and was diagnosed with seminoma or testicular cancer. For three months, he would work in the clinic, then go to Makati Medical Center for his treatment, which weakened him considerably.

When he was cured, Camara was determined never to become weak again. He was told that, with the treatments, chances were slim for having more children the natural way. The couple beat the odds when Emmanuelle was born in 2004.

Camara says the experience made him value his family even more. He now makes the effort to spend his free time with his children, whether it means taking them to school or traveling to their favorite scuba-diving spots in Batangas, Bohol, Mindoro or Palawan.

Camara's zeal for his work is motivated by the principles of Imua Shantung Kuntao, an Indonesian martial arts organization. He says his clinic is a practical example of the kuntao, which espouses service to humanity, respect, humility, compassion, strength of character and integrity. One precept is, "the right thing for the right reason in the right way." Camara explains, "We continuously ask ourselves, are we doing this because it is better or because it is easier? Often, we do all we can to make our patients well, not because it is easier, but because it is better."

Fascination with the body

Camara is the youngest of 12 children, six of them doctors like their cardiologist father Dr. Augusto Camara. Martin's fascination with the human body was born of his involvement in sports. He played baseball and softball from high school all the way to his doctorate in chiropractic at the Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, California. Camara is also the first chiropractor in the country to use the Graston technique, an instrument-assisted method to treat soft tissue injuries. He studied it in Florida under Thomas Hyde.

This knowledge and clinical experience enabled Camara and his staffers to help boost the performance of the Filipino athletes in the SEA Games. An Ina the Mit of all the electrical

tercare clinic was set up at the Aquatic Center in Los Baños to assist the national swimming and diving teams.

Dr. Martin Camara's

mission to serve has

led him to treat athletes

in the last SEA Games

Mark Joseph says they scored nine gold medals, compared with four in the previous SEA Games. Although they were better prepared because they were trained in China, mentored by a Japanese coach, and had competed in the World Swimming Championship in Canada, the athletes were unanimous in saying that Intercare's solicitous attention made an impact on them.

Between games, athletes received deep tissue massages, chiropractic adjustments, physical therapy, acupuncture and a lot of moral support. The key to a high-level performance in swimming and diving is recovery," says Joseph. "Intercare took care of the athletes after every event. That played a big role in their winning." Other coaches and athletes from the foreign teams were impressed with how the Philippine team was pampered with Intercare's advanced methods.

Ambassadors of chiropractic

Now, Camara's work is taking him places. His mentor, Thomas Hyde, is president of the International Sports Chiropractic Commission, which has been providing chiropractors to the Olympic Games since 1996 in Atlanta. He invited Camara to the Turin Winter Olympics. The World Olympians Association (WOA), a subcommittee of the International Olympic committee, that looks after the needs of athletes, contracted a team of chiropractic specialists to service the Games. "We came as ambassadors of chiropractic," says Camara.

In the Winter Olympics, he observed that the big countries such as the United States and Canada brought their own chiropractors to service the national team. "Over 33 percent of elite athletes worldwide use chiropractic care. It is used for three things: to enhance performance, to speed up healing time when injured, and to prevent injury. However, only 10 percent of athletes have access to chiropractic care during the game itself," says Camara.

The clinic was set up at the Olympians' Reunion Center, outside the Olympic Village, which has a polyclinic that provides the medical care for all aithletes. It served former Olympians, WOA delegates and dignitaries. Camara worked six hours a day, treating 30 patients. Most of them complained of back problems. He says 80 percent of the population complains of low back pain, athletes

and non-athletes. On the map

Off clinic hours, he watched the Games and witnessed how athletes would sacrifice themselves to exceed their limits. Some of his unforgettable moments were meeting the Olympic torch bearer before the event, and witnessing Chinese figure skater Zhang Hao injure her knee after a bad fall, then re-

to the contract that that he are a second to

turn to the rink to perform flawlessly.

The Winter Olympics opened opportunities for Camara to step up his involvement in sports medicine on the international level. He hooked up with doctors who invited him to the World Surfing Tour, and to the world track and field championships in Mauritius in 2007.

He adds that his participation in Turin put the Philippines on the map. "A lot of these people were unfamiliar with chiropractic and the Philippines. It's good to have a representative in one of the world's largest healthcare professions. After this engagement, international sports work is something we plan to do more often."

In the past two years, chiropractic has been gaining recognition in the medical profession and in the government. There is a growing acceptance of alternative medicine. He cites the Traditional and Alternative Medical Act, which advocates the development of complementary healthcare disciplines such as chiropractic. Camara is also involved with the National Institute of Health of the University of the Philippines, discussing guidelines for conducting research in Alternative and Complementary Medicine, and sits on the board of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Healthcare.

## Culture of excellence

Also at the core of Camara's work is developing his staffers' qualities, and offering patients the gift of their spirit. "In? tercare-my life's work, basically-is a culture that strives towards excellence, We believe that the more people we serve, the better we are. We define success as the ability to affect people's lives in positive and creative ways, and that is definitely true with our patients, when we help them in their journey away from pain or towards optimum performance."

Before Camara left for Turin, he organized his staffers to help the victims of the "Wowowee" stampede. An outreach clinic offering free services was set up at ABS-CBN. The staffers treated over 150 people in two days. "In a simplistic way, some victims were even thankful for the stampede, because it gave them a chance to experience special treatment. Others went to ABS-CBN expecting to be given. cash, but were satisfied instead with the nursing that they received from Intercare," says Camara.

Their form of giving is unconditional, and endears Camara and his team to their patients. To Camara, that's the way to live, according to the kuntao precept: The thing which serves most is the best."

Intercare HealthCare Centers are located in Makati (tel. nos. 890-3378, 895-1297, 890-2547), Greenhills (tel. nos. 724-6631, 722-1846) and Alabang (tel. nos. 809-4163, 807-6863).

## This Week.

## Art

Diboto, an exhibit of new works depicting Filipina plety by Mikel Parial, until April 7 at the Big & Small Art Co., Artwalk, SM Megamall. For details, call 687-7425.

Fish-ful of Prosperity, Julius Limpe's latest artworks of 20 pieces of Rsh paintings done in acrylic, April 4-16 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L, Artwalk, SM Mega-

Onstage On April 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28

and 29 at 7:30 p.m., Koine One Acts will restage Niel de Masa's play Huling Ensayo Para Sa Iyo, a tragic tale of a lover who prepared tediously for his beloved's birthday surprise only to be stumped by art-

other birthday surprise. It will run in tandem with De Mesa's new surreal romantic comedy, Somnambufism, about a sleepwalker who wakes up in Parts. Call 410-4485 to reserve seats. Koine One Acts is located at 2/F, Forab Building, (2) Kamuning Road, QC.



Atbp

Ballet veteran Chelo B. Gamina, artistic director,

Julius Limpa's recent works, on view at the Crucible Gallery

slasts who are in pursuit of creativity and photographic adventures. Topics to be discussed are basic principleS of light, exposure, how to develop your eye, lenses and glossaries, photography as composition and tips for aspiring photographers. Lactures will be held evary Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. starting April B. Participants should have their own 35mm cameras with interchangeable lens or digital cameras with zoom lens. Separate-

ly, a Batanes Photo Safari Is scheduled from April 12-15. Registration is ongoing at Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza, 219 Nicunor Garcia St., Bel-Air II Village, Makati City or call 899-1767 or 896-3208.

launches The Company of Acts, a Christian ballet

company on April 5 at the CCP Little Theater. Gemina formed "The Company of Acts" with a vision to pro-

claim the message of Jesus Christ through dance. The bunch, which will be at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. will feature all schools under Gemina's directorship, namely Interna-

tional Christian Academy, STI Academy, talents inC.,

Victory Christian Fellowship Alabang, Shekinah Ballet

Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop of-

fers the most fun to photo enthu-

School, and Statefield School.

Get your lidds moving and stretching this summer through the ancient discipline of yoga in lyengar Yoga for Kids, starting April 4, Tuesday, 9-10 a.m. until May 30, at the lyengar Yoga Center Manife, 21st Floor, 6801 Ayais Ave., Makati. Call or text Sares at (0917) 535-

## For this ... from page 4

it not for my ex, but for myself. If I stay angry, who will have a hard time? Who can't move on? Sino ang talo "(Who loses)? Eh di akol"

Today, Candy is looking forward to more work, including a US tour later this year with Eugene Domingo and other performer friends. She hopes to get another crack at drama after a memorable "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" episode that she enjoyed. "It felt good, but I guess people just weren't used to

seeing me that way. You can be versatile, but the culture of producers here is to get whoever looks right for a role. As a matter of fact, yes, I'm ready to do drama, huwag bold, nakakahiya!"

Feeling blessed Now a self-supporting single mom

in the process of having her marriage annulled, Candy says she has no idea how she'll raise Quentin, but she knows she'll be there for him and not poison his mind against his dad. She relaxes by sleeping and reading a lot

Boy stand water or a white them to be

Good friends: On a comedy tour in the

US with Eugene Dominge, at left

of inspirational stuff these days, including the Bible. "It's like I'm learning a lot only now, because it has suddenly became applicable to my life. But I do feel blessed."

As for falling in love again, "Oo namant" Candy retorts loudly. "I'm ready to start going out again, but I don't want to plan falling in love anymore. I always used to plan everything, and it's not that way pala. In the end, it's about loving yourself and keeping

> your dignity. I know I can fall in love again, but I also know my happiness will no longer depend on another person."

"Candy's Love?" goes on stage at the Music Museum on Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m., directed by

Andrew de Real and sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.. For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum at tel. no. 721-6726, Ticketworld at tel. no. 891-9999, and Xzone Entertainment at tel. no. 914-1104.

## Pinov Naa!

by Jess Abrera

## **Apartments for Rent**





"The Company of Acis" goes onstage at the CCP Little Theater



9711. Leaps Bounds: A Youth Leadership Adventure Camp is on for the fourth straight year. Activities include Challenge Course, Arts & Crafts, Adventure Night Treks, Nature

Projects, Raft Building and others. Open to all youth ages 9-18 years; two camps to choose from: May 9-12 and May 16-19. Limited slots only. For package rates and details, contact 0918-9045581 or leapsandbounds@mgtstrat-asia.com.

## X-manila



Yoga for Kids at the Ivengar Yoga Center

Peque Gallaga's brainchild Negros Summer Workshops in Bacolod starts on April 24 with its new flagship course, Director's Apprenticeship under Direk Peque. Also offered are acting courses for children. teens and adults, and Film Production-a

hands-on course on all aspects of film and video production from pra-production to shooting to editing and post production. Registration is ongoing until April 24 at the Office of the Artist-in-Residence, University of St. La Salia, Bacolod City (tel. 034-4345998). Assistance for housing arrangements for non-Bacolod workshoppers is available upon request.

## The place ... from page 8

In this column we shall celebrate real stories about solid places. Not just the seeking and discovery, but also the struggles, the wrong turns and the joyous, poignant return, for these are necessary to our journey. Then we shall find our solid places where God heals us with prodigal love. Henri Nouwen reminds us to return to these solid places, especially when we are hurting: "You have to trust the place that is solid, the place where you can say yes to God's love even when you do not feel it."

Things slowly settled down, grew calmer and kinder, after Maggie gave her now-famous tour. Since there was no floor space anywhere inside for the dining table, the family spent its first few weeks eating al fresco, and the canopy of stars made the evening meals truly lovely and memorable.

It's been over a year now. The walls are still unpainted, but we have found the floor. The dogs have grown fat, the bird has regained its plumage (or is it a new one?), and the plants are abloom. The fish have not been replaced, but no one is complaining. it is now home.

Love is the most solid place of all.





# The place where we are healed

We celebrate not just the seeking and discovery, but also the struggles, the wrong turns and the joyous, poignant return, for these are necessary to our journey

ISDOM, it is often said, means remembering what we have always known as children and have forgetten as adults. We forget, unfortunately, because the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" have made us acquire a crustiness about life which we mistake fer "worldly wisfrom." No wonder the Lord told us that we have to become like little children to enter the Kingdom. It is not permission to regress to immaterity, but a call to see the world anew. Like children, we must re-learn to go off on adventures to look for hidden treasures, the kind that takes us inwards into our hearts. Then we shall find—in the midst of all that is elusive and fleeting in this world—some real, solid places.

Of course, we need guides on the journey: a spiritual director, a trusted spouse or friend, a mentor, wise people who have taken the same path before us and can show us the way. Children, too, can teach us if we only know how to truly listen and observe. They show us, above all, that wisdom comes with vulnerability.

My niece Maggie taught us a valuable lesson during an espe-

cially bleak Christmas. Our family was about to move houses. Maggie, who was 6 at that time, told her mother what everyone else felt: "I'm sad, Mommy. I don't want to leave our house!" She had articulated the silent grief of the family, for the move was not a mark of upward mobility. Rather, it signified a radical, heartbreaking loss. And while the world gently glowed with a million lights of Christmas, my mother slowly turned off the lights in our childhood home, and closed the door for the last time. The new house, unfortunately, furthered this loss. In spite of my sister's near-obsessive efforts to make it beautiful, it was undeniably smaller. Worse, it was not yet finished by the time the family had to move in. The walls were unpainted, there were no window screens, and dirt was everywhere. The next days and weeks of unpacking and cleaning proved extremely stressful to all. Tempers were short and nerves frayed as people stumbled into boxes just looking for the "invisible" floor. Even our dogs lost weight, the bird lost its feathers, the plants wilted and the fish died.

Into such bleak landscape came God's little sunshine. In the midst of the frenetic moving, Maggie dragged her parents, her aunts, her lolg and lolo, into the room she shared with her mother, father and baby sister, excitedly saying: "I want to show you my room!" Once inside, she made a grand, sweeping gesture around the room and happily demanded: "See? Isn't it great? I just don't

ike it, I LOVE it!" The adults were stunned into silence. We couldn't see beyond the mess of still-unsorted things and overflowing clutter, nor deeper than the loss of our former house. We couldn't see it, until Maggie, like a proud art collector showing off her priceless collection, pointed it out. Sure, she was sad to move. But she soon saw and understood-before all the grown-ups around her-that unpainted walls and smaller, dirtier houses do not really matter in the end. Here love, often flustered and tragically fallible, was nonetheless real. She was with family, and therefore she was Home. However it looked, it was a palace. She had found her solid place.

To page 7



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE D'ACTION ARTISTIQUE, AND THE AYALA MUSEUM PRESENTS FRENCH SPRING IN MANILA 2006 WITH

## CHRISTIAN LACROIX dialogues!

AN EXHIBITION OF ART AND FASHION





The Alliance Française de Manille, in partnership with the French Embassy, the Association Française d'Action Artistique, and the Ayala Museum is delighted to announce that, for the first time, an art exhibit featuring Christian LACROIX Haute Couture will be presented in the Philippines at the Ayala Museum. The event, which will take place from the 1st April until the 4th May, 2006, will open the new French Spring in Manila 2006.

The exhibit, whose curator is Yves Sabourin, went first on display at the Fine Art and Lace Museum of the city of Alençon in France. It was followed by a world lour, which included China, Thailand and the Philippines, before a final

As a designer, Lacroix has always been interested in every aspect of art. Moreover, his haute coulure creations are real pieces of art. In this exhibit, which focuses on 17 years of work by one of France's most outstanding fashion designer, 63 of his unique dresses and accessories will be presented. It intends to create a dialogue between different aspects of Christian Lacroix's work and embodies, beyond fashion and

As Christian Lacroix says, This event is much more than a fashion exhibit. I want to present inspirations and a universe in harmony with space.

The display intends to communicate to the viewer the inspiration that stimulates Lacroix to continuously rejuvenate and reinvent himself as a designer. The message is that artists, including fashion designers, absorb influences from their environment to react to their surroundings in creating their art. In turn, the viewer of these artistic forms is stimulated and encouraged to view his or her surroundings in a new way.

This is a display where everything is mixed together, where inspiration and influences are released, where distance allows understanding the creation process," says Mr. Yves Sabourin.

The result is Dialogues!, a conversation between designer, artist and viewer The sensibilities and perception of each dialogue partner are expanded through this process and the works produced and perceived take on new

A series of lectures and discussions related to fashion and the influence of French fashion designers will be held at the Ayala Museum during the month of April,



CHRISTIAN LACROIX AYALA MUSEUM April 1- May 4

NEMANJA RADULOVIĆ classical violin with Dominique Plancade piano PHILAMLIFE May 25-27

COMPAGNIE LA BARAKA Allegoria Stanza contemporary dance CCP MAIN THEATER June 2-3

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL screenings and workshops SHANGRI-LA MALL June 8-18

MANILA JAZZ FESTIVAL with Manila's top jazz artists EXPO EXCHANGE June 16

Play by Sammuel Beckett directed by Alain Timer CCP MAIN THEATER June 23, 24, 25

ETCHINGS 10 french artists ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE April 10-May 6

REGARDS CROISES photos of Parisian daily life by Juan Caguicla ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE

CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS Photos of French clowns' travel in the Philippines June

FRENCH CUISINE WEEK with French chefs MADARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL and ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE June 1-11

SOMMELIER FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL 10 RESTAURANTS IN METRO MANILA

ZANZIBAR contemporary circus interaction with abused children in

CHAMELEON June 25-July 11

